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UNCERTAINTY IN MAHARASHTRA

Sena likely to bargain for key portfolios

NEWS » PAGE 14

PARLIAMENT VOTES 'NO'

S. Korea President declares martial law

WORLD » PAGE 18

SRINAGAR ENCOUNTER

LeT 'commander' killed, say J&K police

NEWS » PAGE 14

COP29 FOCUS

Local action amidst global inertia

National actions are making visible progress

OPINION » PAGE 13

A DRAW AGAIN

Gukesh lets Ding off the hook in Game 7

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

HC quashes FIR against Kateel

BENGALURU
The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday quashed criminal proceedings initiated against Nalin Kumar Kateel, former president of the BJP's State unit, based on the FIR registered against him for alleged extortion. » PAGE 8

Crackdown on drug peddlers

BENGALURU
In order to ensure a peaceful New Year's celebration and ensure law and order, the Bengaluru police launched a special drive against the drug menace, and carried out intensive search and seizure operations across black spots in the city. » PAGE 3

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 7

India, China have set ties on right track: Jaishankar

Jaishankar cites 'continuous diplomatic engagement' with Beijing for disengagement along the Line of Actual Control; Lok Sabha Speaker disallows questions from Opposition on the matter

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India and China have set ties in the "direction of some improvement", External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told Parliament on Tuesday, crediting "continuous diplomatic engagement" and a step-by-step approach with Beijing in achieving disengagement in border areas, where he said the situation had been "abnormal" since 2020 as a "result of Chinese actions".

"We have been very clear that the restoration of peace and tranquillity would be the basis for the rest of the relationship to move forward," Mr. Jaishankar said.

In a 20-minute *suo motu* statement to the Lok Sabha, he recounted steps leading to the agreement announced on October 21, in which the Indian Army and People's Liberation Army (PLA) forces agreed to disengage troops at Demchok and Depsang, and work towards de-escalating tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla refused requests from the Opposition for any questions or clarifications to the statement.

"As a result of this recent understanding, arrived at after intensive negotiations, resumption of patrolling to the traditional areas is under way," Mr. Jaishankar said, adding that patrols had conducted the "verification of disengagement on the ground" as well.

He said that disengagement from all friction points at the LAC has now been "fully achieved", and that the next priority would be de-escalation, or the withdrawal of troops from the area. He said the Special Representatives and Foreign Secretaries of the two countries would meet soon to take ties forward.

He said the government's stance during negotiations had been "firm and principled".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Next steps

With disengagement 'fully achieved' at the India-China border, Minister Jaishankar details the developments to follow as per agreement between the two countries

- Talks on de-escalation along Line of Actual Control (LAC)
- Discussions on management of border and confidence-building measures
- Meeting of Special Representatives Ajit Doval and Wang Yi
- Meeting of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his Chinese counterpart

"We have been very clear that the restoration of peace and tranquillity would be the basis for the rest of the relationship to move forward"
S. JAISHANKAR
External Affairs Minister

Dhaka summons Indian envoy after breach at mission

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Bangladesh summoned the Indian envoy on Tuesday to convey Dhaka's concerns about the breach of security at the Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh in Agartala. Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma was called to meet Acting Foreign Secretary Riaz Hamidullah even as Bangladesh suspended consular and visa activities at its mission in Agartala.

Bangladesh Foreign Ministry, in an announcement, cited "security situation" declaring, "all visa and consular services in the Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh will remain suspended till further notice".

"We have wide-ranging, multi-faceted relationship and you cannot reduce it to one issue and one agenda. We have so many interdependencies and we want to build on those interdependencies. A number of positive developments in the relationship in the last few months, like trade, power transmission, supply of essential commodities have taken place," Mr. Verma said after the meeting.

Police guard the Indian High Commission after a call for anti-India protests, in Dhaka.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

MUDA issue: Evidence of irregularities in CM's wife's case, says ED

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Evidence of several irregularities has been detected in the transfer of 14 sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) to B.M. Parvathi, the wife of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, according to the Directorate of Enforcement (ED).

The agency, in a recent communication sent to the Karnataka Lokayukta, also claimed that its probe has also found that MUDA had "illegally" allotted a total of 1,095 sites in *benami* and other such transactions.

There was "contravention" of statutory guidelines in the land transfer to Ms. Parvathi, and evidence of "tampering" and violation of office procedures.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

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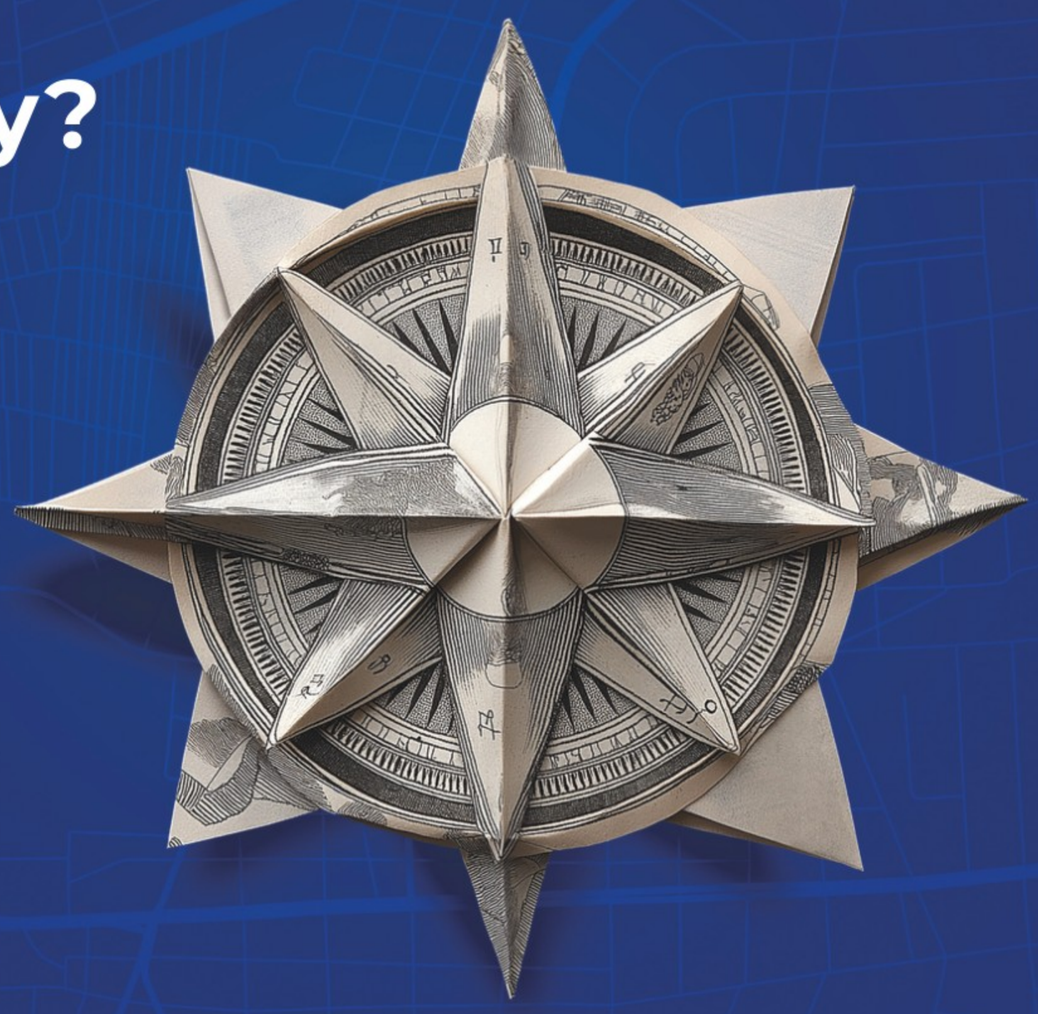

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A BG-BGE

Olympiad performance shows the progress India has made

I want to become 2700 (Elo) first. I mean I've been at 2600 for the last one-and-a-half years. So, I think it's long enough and I should make the jump soon

R. RAVINDRAN

INTERVIEW

LEON LUKE MENDONCA

S. Prasanna Venkatesan

Grandmaster Leon Luke Mendonca, who played in the Challengers' section of the second edition of the Chennai Grandmasters classical chess tournament recently, spoke about the popularity of chess in Goa, his travels for training, how GM Vishnu Prasanna changed his playing approach, his breakthrough title triumph at the prestigious Tata Steel Challengers (Wijk aan Zee) in January and his major takeaway from it, the inspirational gold-winning performance of the India men's team at the 2024 Olympiad, and his short-term goal. Excerpts:

You are only the second chess Grandmaster from Goa, a State one wouldn't normally associate with chess. So, how big a sport is chess in Goa?

So, chess is not too prominent in Goa. I think the first time we pretty much heard about chess was when this girl Ivana Furtado won double golds or something in the world youths (u-8 World Championship twice in a row). I'm not sure how many years back, but quite a long time back (2006 and 2007). That was the first time Goa pretty much heard of chess. But still, it was not a big thing. It still is not very big in Goa.

Coming from Goa, a place with little or no association with chess whatsoever, how did you get into chess? If you can shortly share the journey you've had...

My journey was kind of a bit different. My family never had a chess background. We never knew anything about chess until my sister started playing. So, my elder sister first started playing. I think she received a chess set or something for her birthday. And she started playing casually. Then slowly, she became more interested in it. And my parents enrolled her with one local academy. A couple was teaching chess to kids. So, she started going to that academy. I also kind of understood the rules by then. And she would come back from the lessons and show me some things she learned from there. So, that was how I first started.

And I liked to play. Like, I would usually just sit and play a game for both sides. That's how I started playing in the beginning. Then, my parents realised that I was interested. So, they also enrolled me with the same people. And slowly, I even started playing some local tournaments in Goa.

So then, I started playing tournaments in India (outside Goa) as well. Soon, I started playing some age category events outside India as well. And then, my first open tournament outside India was in 2016. It just continued and never stopped.

Did you go anywhere outside Goa for training?

They never really did online training too much. At least, online wasn't a real thing back then. So, it was mostly just in-person training. And also, we preferred it that way.

So, in the beginning, I was training with various coaches in Goa. The first time I went outside Goa for training was with Akash Thakur sir in Nagpur. He had like an extra guest room. So, he allowed us to stay there. He was a FIDE master and a very good trainer. He instilled in me some good training habits. He was one of the best trainers I've had in my early growth. He basically instilled in me a lot of good values and trained me very well.

And also other coaches like Rajesh Bahadur from Madhya Pradesh. Shashikant Kutwal, who is Akash Thakur's friend. He's from Pune.

Then, my first prolonged training with somebody was with R.B. Ramesh sir. Here in Chennai (Chess Gurukul). I was rated 1600 or 1700 (Elo rating) back then. I think it was in the beginning of 2015. And he would have these normal training sessions for the people in Chennai. So, we used to go especially to Chennai just for those training sessions. Sometimes, we would stay there for long periods of time just to get the training. And that, of course, helped me tremendously and improved my level a lot. I was there until the beginning of 2018.

Then, I started training with Vishnu Prasanna sir. He's mentoring me right now. Just giving me psychological advice. He is my mentor and will be my mentor. He brought me to a new level and helped me understand chess in a much more broader horizon.

If you can be a bit more specific as to what he did...

So, before that, I was just training chess, like, for results. I trained to get better to get good results. But he made me understand chess from a philosophical point of view - understanding the game, studying the game, forgetting about results and all that stuff. So, just to study the game, the nature of the game. That kind of viewpoint he instilled in me.

In the beginning, it was very confusing because I'd never seen chess this way. But slowly, I got used to it and it definitely helped me understand chess a lot better. And, of course, chess-wise, he has trained me quite a bit and he brought me from 2200 (Elo) to where I'm right now. Other than that, I've also been with WACA (WestBridge Anand Chess Academy).

So, you've travelled quite a bit for training. From your perspective, which place has a very strong chess culture in India?

Definitely, Chennai. It's the chess capital of India and I feel like I used to come to Chess Gurukul quite often in those days. So, it just felt like coming home, actually.

In January this year, you won the Tata Steel Challengers in Wijk aan Zee (The Netherlands). How was it playing in such a prestigious tournament?

First of all, I was very fortunate to get an invitation. I'm pretty sure Vishy (Viswanathan Anand) sir put in a good word to the organiser. Playing that event was a great experience, because it's known as the Wimbledon of chess. I wanted to win the tournament, definitely. But, of course, I knew it was not going to be super easy.

And it definitely wasn't. I was always in the second place, but never really winning until I got the opportunity in the last round. So, it was quite unexpected. But mainly, I was just focusing on playing my best and just giving my best in every game. And then, the thing of result only came at the end - in the last round - because I suddenly had a good chance.

In general, it was just a very good experience. I played very strong players as well.

Would you say that it's a major breakthrough in your career?

Yes, I think so.

So, what's the major takeaway from the tournament?

I mean I understood my style a bit more because I suddenly started outplaying people in chaotic situations, which I didn't know I could do before. So, I only discovered it during that tournament. And I won many games in the second half of the tournament because of that.

I just enjoyed the experience, and I'm happy that I've got the opportunity to play next year as well because I won.

How are you looking forward to that?

It's going to be my first super tournament. I'm very excited. After this event here in Chennai, I'll be preparing full-time for it. And I won't play any more open events.

You said that you sort of understood your style at the Tata Steel Challengers. So, how would you describe your style?

It's hard to understand myself. Sometimes, I play well in slow situations, and recently, I've also been playing well in chaotic situations. I mean I remember in Tata Steel, I think five games out of 13, my King was roaming around like madness. But somehow, I didn't lose a single of those games.

So, yes, since then I've discovered that I could do that. Also, in recent tournaments, I've played some games like that.

Would you say that you've become more resilient?

I think I've always been like that, but even in these situations, it was more apparent. Suppose it was just a dead loss, then I would create chances. I think, yes, it brought out that resilience in me.

Did you follow India men's gold-medal winning performance at the 2024 Olympiad? How inspiring was it?

It's very inspiring. Because, India had never won a gold, but it was pretty apparent that they were the favourites. So, it just shows the progress that Indian chess has made.

And I'm very happy to be a part of this generation of India taking over chess. I mean they made a dominating stance in Hungary. And yes, they played very well - all of them.

Was there anyone or anyone's play that was particularly impressive? For instance, we've had people raving about Gukesh's endgame versus China's Wei Yi...

Yes, I think that was one of the turning points. Maybe, the turning point for India taking the gold. That match against China. It was a very tense game and in the last moment, it became tricky and Gukesh took over. So, that cost China the match and brought the victory to India.

But in general, I think all of them did really well. Even Arjun just kept winning games. He's so good at that. Just keeps winning. I think they all did well and played well at the right moments.

You are from Goa, where people generally go to relax and have fun, and have become a GM at 14! Are you an ambitious person?

Actually, it is true that Goa has got that reputation. But my parents are pretty much normal people. My mother is a doctor, and my father is an engineer. I grew up pretty normally and level-headed. In fact, I'm the last person to go to a party.

In general, I'm ambitious. I haven't progressed as far as I thought I should have since I became GM. But yes, my ambition hasn't slowed down.

Do you have any short-term goal that you would like to achieve?

I want to become 2700 (Elo) first. I mean I've been at 2600 for the last one-and-a-half years. So, I think it's long enough and I should make the jump soon.

Prepare plan to demolish 'A' block of Platinum City apartment complex: HC

Court passes order as the developer of the project, Sheriff Constructions, has failed to demolish a few floors at the top of the block as per an assurance given to the court earlier

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Commissioner of the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) to prepare a plan for the eviction and demolition of the entire 'A' block, having 15 floors, of the Platinum City apartment complex situated at Peenya, to bring the development of the residential group housing project in compliance with the applicable building bylaws.

The court passed the order as the developer of the project, M/s Sheriff Constructions, not only failed to demolish a few floors at the top of the block as per an assurance to the court earlier but also came up with a new excuse stating that beams and slabs of the 15th floor cannot be demolished, as such an action "would cause structural instability to the whole structure and its neighbouring structure."

> This demolition is required to be made on account of the petitioner. Any losses caused to the purchasers would have to be borne by the petitioner as per the value of the apartments as on the date of demolition, as also taking into consideration the inconvenience caused to such purchasers/residents.

Petition filed in 2013

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the interim order while hearing a petition filed back in 2013 by the developer seeking directions to the BDA to grant occupancy certificates for blocks 'A' to 'G'.

The developer this July gave an undertaking to the court that the floors at the top would be demolished to bring the height of the block within the permissible limit but failed to adhere to its undertaking.

Following this, the court directed the BDA to demolish the floors to reduce the height of the 'A' block building. But the BDA in September said that it did not receive any response to the tender for demolition works.

This led the court on September 13 granting two months to the developer to complete the demolition of the floors.

Curiously, when the petition came up for hearing on November 25, the developer, who partially demolished a few structures on the floors, told the court that beams and slab of the 15th floor cannot be demolished as it would cause structural damage to the entire building.

'*Mala fide* conduct'

Terming the conduct of the developer as *mala fide* to delay the proceedings, the court pointed out that the construction of the 'A' block itself was illegal and was required to be demolished, but the developer had made efforts to save other floors by reducing the height of the building so that the BDA could consider approving modified development plan.

"...Therefore, the entire building would need to be demolished. This demolition is required to be made on account of the petitioner, Any losses caused to the purchasers would have to be borne by the petitioner as per the value of the apartments as on the date of demolition, as also taking into consideration the inconvenience caused to such purchasers/residents," the court said while asking the BDA Commissioner to prepare plan for demolition by evicting the occupants.

Earlier proceedings

The court, during earlier proceedings between 2013 and 2024, noted that though the development plan of the project was approved in the late 1990s, there was no approved building plan for the project even though the BDA had received around ₹2.5 crore as fee from the developer in the absence of any demand for payment of such fee.

However, the developer possessed building plans "approved" by the BDA.

Keeping the interest of hundreds of people who had purchased the flats and occupied the buildings much before 2013 sans occupancy certificates, the court in 2019 directed the developer to submit revised development and building plans to be considered by the BDA as per the building bylaws.

BBMP receives complaints of AROs demanding money to issue e-khata

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Applicants whose details are without errors and who do not run into technical obstacles will get the final digital khata without the applications being referred to the Assistant Revenue Officers. Those with issues will be referred to the officers for approval. FILE PHOTO

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has been receiving complaints about Assistant Revenue Officers (AROs) fleecing property owners to issue final e-khata. According to the BBMP, every day, at least 2,000 people are applying to secure the final e-khata.

Applicants whose details are without errors and who do not run into technical obstacles will get the final digital khata without applications being referred to the AROs. The applications with issues will be referred to the AROs for approval.

An applicant talking to *The Hindu* alleged that an ARO had asked for ₹25,000 for clearing his application. "There was a mismatch in the name as it was different on the sale deed and the Aadhaar card. Many applicants like me are not ready to register a formal complaint as we want e-khata as soon as possible for carrying out land transactions," he said.

Applicants also alleged that AROs, who have to approve the applications within 10 days, are citing multiple reasons for keeping the case pending and demanding money for clearance. These approvals should be done electronically and not manually and can be done within a few days, they said.

BBMP Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil talking to *The Hindu* acknowledged the allegations and said the BBMP has received multiple complaints about the same and a few property owners have raised concerns orally.

"We cannot act unless there is a formal complaint. But the Revenue Department is holding videoconferences with all AROs every day and are collecting details about disposal of cases referred to them," he said.

Mr. Moudgil said the AROs have to dispose of the applications within 10 days after they are referred to them. "The purpose of the videoconference is to monitor their work and ensure transparency and corruption free approval of e-khatas. The e-khatas are approved electronically and not manually," he added.

Ananth Technologies Ltd. to be first pvt. Indian entity to provide GSO communication satellite services

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has announced Ananth Technologies Limited (ATL) as the beneficiary of the Announcement of Opportunity (AO) enabling access to Indian orbital resources for non-government entities (NGEs). Under this AO, Indian International Telecommunications Union (ITU) filing in the Ka band is being provided to ATL.

The allocation of orbital resources requires adherence to both national and international regulations, including frequency coordination with other satellite networks and compliance with the ITU processes.

IN-SPACe earlier formulated and released the norms, guidelines, and procedures for the implementation of the Indian Space Policy 2023 this May 3.

This framework provides guidelines for granting access to available Indian orbital resources to Indian entities. Following this, the Announcement of Opportunity was released on July 30, with the bid submission closing on October 21.

Ananth Technologies Limited will undertake the end-to-end management of the project, which includes the development, launch, and operation of a multi-beam high-throughput Ka band communication satellite.

"This announcement is a transformative step for the Indian space sector. This will make Ananth Technologies Limited, the first private Indian satellite operator to provide state-of-art geosynchronous orbit (GSO) communication satellite services to the country. With support from ISRO and DoT, this effort establishes a new benchmark for private sector participation in generating SATCOM capacity through indigenous satellites," Pawan Goenka, chairman, IN-SPACe said

THE HINDU
CARE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
THE HINDU GROUP

Roar for them.

The best part about being human is that we have a name, a unique identification number, and usually someone who will cry foul if something untoward happens to us. We have a language that can be understood or translated. We can write our stories, or narrate them to the world. But what of them who have none of these privileges? The ones who must live in constant fear of being thrown out of their homes or worse, being killed for their skin, meat, or tusk. The ones whose screams of protest are seen as roars of threat. They are killed mercilessly but their screams go unheard until too many of them are silenced.Then we call them endangered. Endangered by the very people who accorded them the status. Ironical, is it not?

This World Wildlife Conservation Day, let us be better humans and pledge to use the privilege of our voice to garner support for the wildlife. It is time we spoke for the hunted and be the **#VoiceOfTheWild.**

THE HINDU
4 December 2024
World Wildlife Conservation Day

BUSINESS CONNECT

A Business Initiative

BHEL wins CII-EXIM Bank Award for Business Excellence – 2024

Reaffirming its track record of sustainable excellence, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), has won the prestigious CII-EXIM Bank Award for Business Excellence 2024 for the second consecutive year. This prestigious accolade reaffirms the company's unwavering commitment to business excellence, resilience and its ability to adapt to the dynamic business landscape. The CII-EXIM Bank Award is based on the internationally recognized European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) excellence model. While BHEL's Haridwar unit has bagged the coveted award; its Bhopal, Hyderabad, Jhansi, Ranipet and Project Engineering Management units/ divisions have received the Platinum recognition. The awards were received by Sh. J. P. Srivastava, Director (E, R&D) along with the teams from Corporate Quality & Business Excellence and the respective units/ divisions during the 32nd CII Excellence Summit at Bengaluru.

Inauguration of Maa Kauvery Hospital under the Kauvery Hospitals banner in Marathahalli

Speaking at the inauguration of Maa Kauvery Hospital, a specialized unit for women and children's health under the Kauvery Hospitals banner in Marathahalli today, former Karnataka Health Minister Aravind Limbavali emphasized the importance of compassionate healthcare and said Hospitals and doctors providing healthcare services for women and children must approach it with a spirit of service. The newly launched Maa Kauvery Hospital is dedicated entirely to maternal and child healthcare. With a capacity of 30 beds, the hospital is equipped with advanced robotic technology for treatments, surgeries, and diagnostics, all managed by an expert team of specialists. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Vijay Baskar, Executive Director of Kauvery Hospitals.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. MYS-COMML-24-CS- MYS-HRR-2024 Dated: 28-11-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites e-Tender for award of license to install and operate two (2) Catering Stalls (General Minor Unit) each at Mysuru & Harihar Railway Stations over Mysuru Division for a period of five years, under the ambit of Catering Policy 2017.
Date of closing of tender is :
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For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/609/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Mysuru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that our client **Smt. Leena Hariani,** residing at Flat No. 001, Shantiniketan, Bengaluru South, Opp. Yelamma Dasappa Hospital, No. 6, Andree Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru – 560 027, **has lost the last Sheet of Original Documents namely Sale Deed dated 17.08.2005** registered as **document No. JAY-1-02446-2005-06** contained in **Book – I, C.D No. JAYD55,** in the office of the **Sub-Registrar Jayanagar** in respect of the above property and a **lost article report bearing No. 1363366/2024** has been placed before the **Bengaluru City Police** in that regard **on 02.12.2024.** If any person/s find/s the lost document he/she/they is/are requested to hand over the documents to the undersigned.
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Partner
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Email-ID-eemidramgarh24408@gmail.com
शुद्धि-पत्र
इस कार्यालय का पत्रांक–1163 दिनांक 28.11.2024के द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या WRD/MID/RAMGARH F2 - 14/2024-25Date :- 28/11/2024 को विभिन्न सामाचर पत्र में प्रकाशित हुआ। योजना का नाम–Construction of Lift Irrigation Scheme Padariya, Block- Mandu, Dist- Ramgarh जिसका पी०आर० नम्बर–340692 Minor Irrigation (2024-25)D वर्ष 2024–25 है जो निम्नांकित रूप से संशोधित किया जाता है:–

क्रमांक	निविदा सूचना संख्या	संशोधित NIT No.	संशोधित Earnest Money	संशोधित Website पर प्रकाशित तिथि/Downloading की तिथि	संशोधित Technical Bid Opening Date
1	14	WRD/MID/RAMGARH /B.D./S.L.I.- 01/2024-25	1,26,400.00	05.12.2024 26.12.2024	28.12.2024

नोट–निविदा की शेष सभी शर्तें एवं नियम यथावत लागू रहेगी।
कार्यपालक अभियन्ता,
लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़।
PR.NO.341005 Minor Irrigation(24-25):D

ecDNA challenges law of genetics, groundbreaking new studies find

In normal human cells, the DNA is enclosed in 23 pairs of chromosomes. Some natural processes can damage DNA; cells can also make mistakes in DNA when making copies to imbue in new cells. Such processes could cause a small part of the DNA to break away and float freely inside the nucleus. This is ecDNA

Manjeera Gowravaram

Once brushed aside as a curiosity, extrachromosomal DNA (ecDNA) is now taking centerstage in the complex field of cancer biology. Scientists first discovered it as a small fragment of genetic material in cancer cells 50 years ago. Because it was present in only 1.4% of tumours, they didn't consider it to be important.

But more sophisticated genomic techniques later revealed their mistake: one study published in 2017 revealed ecDNA is present in nearly 40% of cancer cell lines and in up to 90% of patient-derived brain tumour samples, revealing its pivotal role in cancer biology.

On November 6, three papers were published in the journal *Nature* by a team called eDyNAmiC – an international collaboration led by Stanford University professor Paul Mischel. The studies explore how ecDNA is formed and contributes to the progression of cancer and drug resistance.

Importantly, the findings also challenge a fundamental law of genetics.

Rresearchers analysed samples from nearly 15,000 cancer patients from the U.K.'s 100,000 Genomes Projects. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

What is ecDNA?

In normal human cells, the nucleus contains 23 pairs of chromosomes that enclose the DNA. There are some natural processes that can damage DNA. For example, in chromothripsis, which occurs in some cancers, the chromosomes are broken and rearranged. Cells can also make mistakes in the DNA when making copies of it to imbue in new cells. Such processes could cause a small part of the DNA to break away from the main chromosome and form a circular structure that floats freely inside the nucleus. This is ecDNA.

One of the three studies was led by eDyNAmiC members Mariam Jamal-Hanjani and Charles Swanton, both professors at University College London. They analysed the mutation patterns in tumours before and after the formation of ecDNA. They identified various environmental factors, including smoking, exposure to certain substances, and genetic mutations, to be triggers of DNA damage that could lead to the formation of ecDNA. In the same study, the researchers attempted a comprehensive analysis of samples from nearly 15,000 cancer patients from the U.K.'s 100,000 Genomes Project, covering 39 tumour types. They validated their findings using a method called fluorescence in-situ hybridisation (or FISH), which specifically looks for certain cancer-related genes in tissue samples.

They found that ecDNA was present in about 17% of tumour samples but more so in liposarcomas, brain tumours, and breast cancers. They also reported that the prevalence of ecDNA rose after treatments like chemotherapy and correlated with metastasis and worse patient outcomes.

ecDNA and cancer growth

ecDNA present in tumours often contains multiple copies of oncogenes – mutated genes capable of causing cancer – that are required to activate tumour growth. But these oncogenes are not present in chromosomes, where scientists used to believe they lived.

A study published in 2021, led by another Stanford University professor, Howard Chang, showed that while chromosomal DNA is fixed within specific regions in the cell, ecDNA moves freely and can interact with other ecDNA to form hubs – concentrated zones where oncogenes are expressed more.

Cells transcribe DNA to mRNA to use the latter to manufacture proteins. The 2021 study also found that when cells transcribe ecDNA to mRNA, the process causes specific oncogenes to become four-times more common in the cell than if the DNA came from the chromosomes.

This anomaly has the potential to accelerate the evolution of tumours and help the cancer resist drugs.

An inheritance of loss

Another finding reported in the new studies involves a fundamental shift in scientists' understanding of genetics.

ecDNA was present in about 17% of tumour samples but more so in liposarcomas, brain tumours, and breast cancers. Prevalence of ecDNA rose after chemotherapy and correlated with metastasis and worse patient outcomes

Typically, when cells divide, they duplicate the chromosomes and distribute them equally among their daughter cells. In this process, researchers have known the genes on the same chromosome are inherited together while those on different chromosomes are distributed independently of one another. This basic genetic principle is called Mendel's third law of independent assortment (named after Gregor Mendel).

But in the second of the three studies, a team led by Mischel and Chang used single-cell sequencing, imaging, and modelling to report that ecDNA is passed on in clusters to the daughter cells during cell division – a violation of the third law. This clustering gives some cancer cells an advantage because it allows them to enhance gene interactions, support cancer growth, and preserve favourable genetic combinations over multiple life-cycles. The researchers have called this the "jackpot effect."

This discovery has profound implications. It overturns the idea that gene inheritance is entirely random when the genes are not linked by DNA strands. The researchers also reported that the transcription process – from DNA to RNA – facilitates the coordinated segregation of ecDNA during cell division.

A new vulnerability in cancer cells

But for the new threats posed by ecDNA, the third study uncovered a potential weakness in tumours that depend on ecDNA. The unusual structure of the ecDNA and its interactions with other DNA elements increase the activity of specific genes. This can lead to a conflict between the cellular machinery involved in making RNA and the activity of cancer cells that leads to DNA damage.

Cells respond to this conflict by the heavy use of a protein called CHK1, which helps fix DNA and allows the cell to keep growing. When the researchers used a drug called BBI-2779 that blocks CHK1, they found the drug selectively killed cancer cells with ecDNA, significantly reducing the number of tumours in mice with stomach cancer.

A San Diego-based biotechnology company co-founded by Mischel and Chang, called Boundless Bio, is currently working to translate these discoveries for clinical use. The company's stated aim is to give patients new treatment options that target vulnerabilities created by ecDNA. This is particularly crucial for patients with ecDNA-driven cancers, such as glioblastoma and ovarian and lung cancers, where current treatments often fall short.

(Manjeera Gowravaram has a PhD in RNA biochemistry and works as a freelance science writer. gmanjeera@gmail.com)

THE GIST

An international collaboration by a team called eDyNAmiCled has discovered how ecDNA contributes to the progression of cancer and drug resistance. The findings contradict Mendel's third law of independent assortment

eDyNAmiC members analysed mutations in tumours and identified environmental factors, including smoking, exposure to certain substances, and genetic mutations, to be triggers that could lead to the formation of ecDNA

ecDNA in tumours often contains copies of oncogenes that are required to activate tumour growth. But these are not present in chromosomes, where scientists used to believe they lived

Researchers have found a drug called BBI-2779 that selectively kills cancer cells with ecDNA. A company is now working towards clinical use. This is crucial for patients with ecDNA-driven cancers, such as glioblastoma, ovarian, and lung cancers

BIG SHOT

This aerial view shows a school bus atop the Daniel-Johnson Dam in Quebec, Canada, on July 26. Hydroelectricity production in Canada is plummeting as extreme weather linked to climate change, including sudden swings between drought and flood, has limited output and threatened the structures of the dams themselves. A world leader in hydropower, Canada has also been forced to cut exports to the U.S., which have reached their lowest levels in 14 years. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

When a storm passes over land

Q: What is landfall?

A: Once it's fully formed, a tropical cyclone (in the northern hemisphere) has a complex 3D structure. Two important parts of it are the eye and the eyewall. The eye is the centre around which the cyclone rotates. It consists of cold air descending from the cyclone's top with warm air rising in a spiral around it. The eyewall consists of high thunderstorms that bring rain, lightning, and powerful winds.

As long as the cyclone moves over water, it can draw more moisture from below to produce new clouds and rain events around it. But when the storm crosses over onto land, its moisture supply declines drastically, and the cyclone weakens.

Landfall is the moment in a tropical cyclone's life when its eye moves over land. Stormy weather brought by a cyclone is stronger around the eye, and landfall events can be deadly because they expose human settlements on land to strong winds and heavy rain. Their effects can be compounded by storm surges that flood coastal areas and prevent inland areas from draining normally.

Tidal waves triggered by Cyclone Fengal lashed the R.K. Beach in Visakhapatnam on November 30. DEEPAK K.R.

If the air over land is drier, among other factors, a cyclone weakens quickly after landfall. Depending on environmental conditions, it may dissipate completely, or it could pass over land and re-emerge on the other side. In 2021, Cyclone Gulab made landfall over coastal Andhra Pradesh, weakened as it moved across peninsular India, and re-emerged four days later as Cyclone Shaheen in the Arabian Sea.

- The Hindu Bureau

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
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with the subject 'Daily page'

Police crack down on drug peddlers ahead of New Year

In a special drive, they have seized 1.1 kg of marijuana worth ₹40,000 and arrested three persons

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In order to ensure peaceful celebration of the New Year and ensure law and order, the Bengaluru police launched a special drive against the drug menace and carried out intensive search and seizure operations across black spots in the city.

A file photo of people heralding the New Year in Bengaluru

Surprise checks

As part of the plan, several teams conducted surprise checks at the houses of 380 habitual offenders, 1,633 bars and restaurants, and over 1,020 lodges.

The police seized 1.1 kg of marijuana worth ₹40,000 and arrested three persons from whom the drugs were seized. During the search at odges, the police rescued six foreign women who were forced into prostitution.

Continuing the crackdown, the police checked the documents of 411 foreign nationals. Out of these, 29 were found to be overstaying and were handed over to Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for deportation process.

As many as 874 police officials have carried out awareness programmes in 460 colleges, 302 hostels, and covered 61,398 students to advise them against drug abuse, cyber crime, and women's safety. The police sought cooperation from the students and asked them to share information whenever they come across drug peddling. The police have also cracked down on begging on streets.

They booked 12 women and rescued 16 minor children who were used in begging.

The detained women and children were handed over to State-run homes for women for rehabilitation, city Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said.

Three held for cheating Meesho

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The cybercrime police arrested a three-member gang from Gujarat for allegedly cheating Meesho, an online marketing company, of ₹5.5 crore in seven months. The accused were identified as Uttam Kumar, 31, and his associates Pratap Bhai, 21, and Moulik, 20.

The police said that the accused joined Meesho as a supplier and registered their company as Om Sai Fashion. They roped in third-party agents to create fake buyers. The accused would book products from Meesho with fake addresses and get the product as undelivered. The accused would then raise a complaint with the company stating that they had received fake products and apply for a refund.

Using this *modus operandi*, the accused had made over 2,500 fake purchase orders and claimed a refund from the company. Between January and July, the accused claimed a refund of ₹5.5 crore.

The company initiated a probe and found that all the refunds were going to only two bank accounts. Based on a complaint filed by the Meesho's nodal officer, the police arrested the gang.

The gang was involved in a similar offence in 2023 in the Whitefield police station limits, a probe revealed.

Lake users' associations to be revived

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Minor Irrigation and Science and Technology N.S. Boseraju has underscored the importance of reviving lake users' associations (LUAs), as proposed in the previous State Budget. Officials have been directed to draft proposals to bring this initiative to fruition.

The Minister chaired a meeting of officials here on Monday and said a high-level meeting of the Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Authority, which oversees nearly 40,000 waterbodies across the State, would soon be convened under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take a decision on the revival of LUAs.

He called for robust interdepartmental coordination to address conservation challenges and highlighted the need to identify revenue streams, such as fishing, floating solar installations, and boating activities, to support waterbody management efforts.

Man arrested in housebreaking cases, 1.7 kg gold recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Annapoorneshwari Nagar police have arrested a 38-year-old man, a habitual offender who was involved in as many as 11 housebreaking cases in the city.

The accused was identified as Irfan Islamuddin from Umri in Uttar Pradesh.

City police commissioner B. Dayananda said, "The accused is a habitual offender. Over 65 criminal cases, including the Arms Act, were registered against him. He was involved in contract killings as well."

The police investigated a housebreaking case in August 2023 and identified the accused using fingerprint samples lifted from the crime scene. The search led them to Moradabad District Prison where the accused was serving a sentence in another case.

The police brought Imran under a body warrant and launched a detailed inquiry. Following this, the accused confessed to the 11 housebreaking crimes he committed in the city. They recovered 1.7 kg of gold valuables, which he had pawned in Mumbai and Uttar Pradesh. The stolen valuables were valued at around ₹1.3 crore.

A probe revealed that the UP police had arrested him but he got out on bail citing medical reasons. He then came to Bengaluru city, committed burglaries, and fled with the valuables.

Following the investigation, Imran Islamuddin was handed over to the UP police.

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₹6.5 crore prize challenge to create digital work opportunities for women

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Mphasis F1 Foundation and The/Nudge Institute have announced the launch of the 'Digital *Naukri* Challenge', with the goal of creating and showcasing digital work opportunities for one million women by 2030.

With a prize purse of ₹6.5 crore and a duration spanning 20 months, the challenge invited tech start-ups and innovators across digital work organisations, IT/ITES, BPO, tech outsourcing companies, Job Access Platforms, digital/tech skilling organisations and beyond to discover disruptive, tech-first, and population-scale solutions to unlock gainful employment opportunities for more women in India.

Once a cohort of 8-10 organisations is selected from the applicant pool, they will kickstart their 20-month journey of developing and testing their ideas.

आंध्रप्रदेश केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ కేంద్రీయ విశ్వవిద్యాలయం
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ANDHRA PRADESH
(Established by an act of Parliament in 2019)

NOTIFICATION FOR FIRST CONVOCATION

The First Convocation of the Central University of Andhra Pradesh, Ananthapuramu will be held in December 2024 / January 2025. All the students who passed Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes and whose examinations results have been declared during the period from 01 June 2020 to 30 November 2024 by the Office of Controller of Examinations, may apply online to obtain their Convocation Degree Certificates at the ensuing Convocation.

All other details will be notified on the University website (https://cuap.ac.in/)shortly. Hence, all the students are suggested to regularly get in touch with the University website.

Sd/-Controller of Examinations

प्रथम दीक्षांत समारोह के लिए अधिसूचना

आंध्र प्रदेश केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय, अनंतपुरमू का पहला दीक्षांत समारोह दिसंबर 2024/जनवरी 2025 में आयोजित किया जाएगा। वे सभी छात्र जो स्नातक और स्नातकोत्तर कार्यक्रम उत्तीर्ण कर चुके हैं और जिनके परीक्षा परिणाम परीक्षा नियंत्रक कार्यालय द्वारा 01 जून 2020 से 30 नवंबर 2024 की अवधि के दौरान घोषित किए गए हैं। वे आगामी दीक्षांत समारोह में अपने दीक्षांत डिग्री प्रमाणपत्र प्राप्त करने के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन कर सकते हैं।

अन्य सभी विवरण शीघ्र ही विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट (https://cuap.ac.in/) पर अधिसूचित किए जाएंगे। अतः सभी छात्रों को सुझाव दिया जाता है कि नियमित रूप से विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट के संपर्क में रहें।

एसडी/- परीक्षा नियंत्रक

APPOINTMENT

SOMAIYA VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY

Somaiya TRUST

Rooted in a legacy of over eight decades of academic excellence and guided by the visionary principles of its founder, Padmbhushan Late Shri Karamshi Jethabhai Somaiya, Somaiya Vidyavihar University stands as one of India's leading multi-disciplinary institutions dedicated to empowering individuals through holistic and inclusive education. With a sprawling campus in Mumbai, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, a premier institution renowned for fostering excellence in knowledge, research, and holistic education, invites applications for the prestigious position of

Vice-Chancellor

We invite expressions of interest from visionary leaders who see education as a powerful catalyst for transformation and innovation and are eager to:

- Drive impactful academic initiatives that prepare students for a dynamic world.
- Cultivate a thriving ecosystem of innovation, inclusivity, and academic integrity.
- Strengthen and expand the university's research capabilities, fostering a culture of inquiry and discovery.
- Build on Somaiya Vidyavihar's legacy while inspiring new milestones in higher education.

Who We Seek:
A visionary leader with proven expertise in academia, research, and administration, committed to empowering the next generation. We seek a strategist with a passion for interdisciplinary education and a dedication to community and global engagement. The candidate will fulfill the qualifications, age, experience criteria as prescribed by the UGC guidelines for self-financed private universities.

Why Somaiya Vidyavihar University?
Located in the vibrant city of Mumbai, Somaiya Vidyavihar University is more than an educational institution; it's a community devoted to intellectual excellence, creative exploration, and social responsibility. Here, you'll find a commitment to nurturing potential and reshaping futures.

Join us in our mission to build a world-class University that inspires, educates, and empowers. Please send your expression of interest along with a detailed profile to vcsearchcommittee@somaiya.edu by 15th January 2025.

RBI cautions public on
deepfake videos of
Top Management
circulated over **social media**
giving financial advice.

It has come to notice of the Reserve Bank of India that fake videos of the Governor are being circulated on social media that support or claim launch of some investment schemes by the RBI. These videos attempt to advise people to invest their money in such schemes, through use of technological tools.

RBI clarifies that its officials are not involved in or support any such activities and these videos are fake. RBI does not give any such financial investment advice.

Members of the public are, therefore, cautioned against engaging with and falling prey to such deepfake videos circulated over social media.

Scan here to visit the **RBI Website.**

Issued in public interest by
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www.rbi.org.in

A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Registrations under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

1.45 crore. Around 1.45 crore registrations have been made under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and 6.34 lakh installations have been completed. The scheme aims to achieve one crore rooftop solar installations in the residential sector by FY27 with an outlay of ₹75,021 crore. PTI

The GST evasion cases recorded in Gujarat in four years

12,803 Central tax officers have booked 12,803 cases of GST evasion and arrested 101 persons in the past four financial years in Gujarat, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. PTI

Number of pregnant Filipino surrogates arrested in Cambodia

13 A Cambodian court has sentenced 13 pregnant Filipino women to four years in jail for acting as surrogate mothers, in the latest crackdown on the outlawed practice. The 13 were among 24 foreign women detained by Cambodian police in the Kandal province in September. AFP

Complaints registered under the F&B category in two years

533 The government said on Tuesday that as many as 533 complaints have been registered under the Food & Beverages (F&B) category in the consumer commissions in the last two years. In cases where food samples are found to be non-conforming, penal action is taken. PTI

MCD's expenditure on dengue control measures in 2024

100 In crore. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has spent nearly ₹100 crore on dengue control operations in the financial year 2024-25 so far, up from ₹87.99 crore in the previous fiscal year, according to an RTI response. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The salience of the Places of Worship Act

Why was there communal violence in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh? What were Justice Chandrachud's remarks in the Gyanvapi case in 2022 and why did it spark political controversy? What does the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 stipulate?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

A suit filed against the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal district, Uttar Pradesh, in which the trial court issued an ex-parte order permitting a survey of the mosque, triggered violence on November 24, resulting in the death of four persons. The petitioners have alleged that the 16th-century mosque was built at the site of an ancient Hari Har Mandir which was purportedly demolished by Mughal ruler Babur in 1529. The incident is part of a pernicious trend of local courts in States like Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh entertaining civil suits contesting the origins of mosques across the country. Experts have however flagged that such suits constitute a violation of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

What does the 1991 Act stipulate?

The 1991 Act was introduced by the Congress government under Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao amid the communal turmoil that followed the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya in 1992. Then Home Minister S.B. Chavan stated that the "enactment of this Bill will go a long way in helping restore communal amity and goodwill."

The law preserves the character of a place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947, and prohibits courts from examining whether any place of worship has been altered since that date. Section 3 of the Act forbids the conversion –either in whole or in part – of a place of worship from one religious denomination to another, or even within different sects of the same religion. However, the Ram Janmabhoomi dispute in Ayodhya was explicitly exempted from the Act's purview, as the matter was already sub judice when the law was enacted.

A five-judge Constitution Bench in the 2019 Ayodhya title suit affirmed that the law was designed to protect the nation's secular fabric and imposes a positive obligation on the State to preserve the religious character of all places of worship as they stood on the day India attained independence. Although the disputed site was awarded to the child deity Ram Lalla, the top court barred the institution of similar suits concerning other religious places, in accordance with the provisions of the 1991 Act.

Tense times: The main gate of the mosque at Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh on November 27. R.V. MOORTHY

Why has it been challenged?

A slew of petitions have been filed in the apex court challenging the constitutionality of the law, including one by BJP leader and advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay. The petitioners argue that by freezing the status of religious sites as they stood in 1947, the law effectively prevents Hindus from "reclaiming" their places of worship that were allegedly "invaded" by Muslim rulers and British colonialists. They further point out that destroyed temples retain their original character under Hindu personal laws and cannot be considered valid mosques under Islamic law without the establishment of a waqf.

In September 2022, a Bench led by then Chief Justice of India (CJI) U.U. Lalit directed the government to file a response on its stand within two weeks. However, two years later, the Centre has still not submitted its affidavit.

Noted academician Prof. (Dr.) Faizan Mustafa told *The Hindu* that the inordinate delay in hearing the challenge has emboldened lower courts to disregard the provisions of the 1991 law. "An authoritative pronouncement from the top court is crucial to preserving the country's social fabric. The government is duty-bound to defend the constitutionality of parliamentary laws. Similarly, the court must expedite the hearing of the challenge with a presumption in favour of the Act's constitutionality. A heavy burden lies on the petitioners to prove its unconstitutionality," he said.

Why did Justice Chandrachud's remarks stir political row now?

In August 2021, five women associated with the Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh filed a petition in a Varanasi civil court seeking year-round access to pray at a shrine located behind the western wall of the Gyanvapi mosque complex. They claimed the mosque housed several Hindu deities. On April 8, 2022, a Varanasi civil judge appointed an Advocate Commissioner to conduct a videographic survey to ascertain the alleged existence of these idols. The mosque committee challenged the order citing the 1991 Act. However, the High Court and later the Supreme Court refused to halt the survey.

In May 2022, during a hearing on the maintainability of the suit, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud remarked that the 1991 Act does not preclude inquiries into the status of a place of worship as of August 15, 1947, provided there is no intent to alter or convert its character. This interpretation marked a stark departure from the stance taken in the Ayodhya verdict, also purportedly authored by the former CJI. It also broadened the scope for district courts to entertain a host of similar petitions. This oral remark has also recently sparked a political storm, with Congress leader Jairam Ramesh claiming that it has since opened a Pandora's box.

"Oral observations hold no binding authority as they are not formally recorded in the order. The legislative intent of the 1993 Act could not have been any clearer – it explicitly bars even the admission of such suits. Such claims may only be considered if, on August 15, 1947, the site was unquestionably used by multiple religious communities, for instance, as both a temple and a mosque," explained Dr. Mustafa.

THE GIST

- The 1991 Act preserves the character of a place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947, and prohibits courts from examining whether any place of worship has been altered since that date.
- A slew of petitions have been filed in the apex court challenging the constitutionality of the law. The petitioners argue that by freezing the status of religious sites as they stood in 1947, the law effectively prevents Hindus from "reclaiming" their places of worship that were allegedly "invaded" by Muslim rulers and British colonialists.
- The Supreme Court is yet to decide the preliminary issue raised in several of these suits — whether the 1991 Act bars even the filing of pleas questioning the "original" status of a religious site or just the final alteration of its nature of worship.

What are the controversies around pardoning power?

What is the history of the pardoning power in the U.S.? What is the current controversy?

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

U.S. President Joe Biden has granted an unconditional pardon to his son Hunter Biden who faced sentencing for federal tax and gun convictions.

Can the President pardon anyone?

The 'royal prerogative of mercy' is a historic prerogative of the British monarch to grant pardons to convicted persons. This was originally used by the monarch to withdraw or provide alternatives to death sentences. At present it is used to grant clemency for any sentence or penalty based on ministerial advice. According to the U.S. Constitution, the President can grant pardon except in cases of impeachment. The U.S. President has absolute power of pardon for federal criminal offences. Such a pardon may be issued prior to the start of a legal case as well as prior to or after a conviction for a crime.

Once accepted, the pardon grants relief from punishment and associated disqualifications but does not erase the conviction record.

What is the current controversy?

Right from the pardon to the leaders of the 'whiskey rebellion', who protested against a federal tax, granted by the first President George Washington in 1795 to President Bill Clinton's pardon of his half-brother Roger on the last day of his office in 2001, pardoning power has been mired in controversies. Donald Trump had pardoned his son-in-law's father in 2020. In the instant case, President Joe Biden has granted pardon to his son for tax and gun offences for which he has been convicted, and for any potential federal crimes that Hunter Biden may have committed between 2014 and 2024. This is in contrast to the public promises that Joe Biden had made earlier that he would not pardon his son. The reason stated by the President was that Hunter Biden was selectively and unfairly prosecuted, and was singled out only because he is his son. Hunter Biden was convicted by a jury of illegally buying and possessing a gun as a drug user. He then pleaded guilty in a tax evasion case.

What is the Indian system?

Article 72 and 161 of the Constitution provide powers to the President and Governor respectively to grant pardon, commutation, remission, respite or reprieve to a convict. These are sovereign powers which are to be exercised on the advice of the council of ministers. A pardon in the Indian context absolves the offender from conviction, punishment and all associated disqualifications. There have been various instances in India where the acceptance, rejection or delay in decisions of mercy petitions by ruling governments have been entangled in political controversies. The Supreme Court in the *Epuru Sudhakar* case (2006) has held that the exercise of pardoning power is subject to judicial review on the grounds of arbitrariness, mala fides or extraneous considerations.

What can be the way forward?

The pardoning power is a practice that has its origins during the time of absolute monarchy when there was no separation of powers between the executive and the judiciary.

Critics have argued that the pardoning power in modern times have been more often used for political considerations than to correct judicial errors.

In the U.K., the Criminal Cases Review Commission has been constituted to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice. It has diminished the use of the royal prerogative of mercy. This is a transparent and judicious manner of correcting judicial errors in a modern democracy, governed by the rule of law. However, till such time the pardoning power continues in the statute books, it must be exercised in a manner that does not reek of nepotism or arbitrariness. It is essential for retaining the trust of people, who are the source of all power in a democracy, in high constitutional offices.

Rangarajan R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- The 'royal prerogative of mercy' is a historic prerogative of the British monarch to grant pardons to convicted persons.
- According to the U.S. Constitution, the President can grant pardon except in the cases of impeachment. The U.S. President has absolute power of pardon for federal criminal offences.
- Article 72 and 161 of the Indian Constitution provide powers to the President and Governor respectively to grant pardon, commutation, remission, respite or reprieve to a convict.

CM announces ₹44 cr. more for PwDs and senior citizens

Government symbolically launches new programme to provide ₹1,000 monthly allowance for caregivers of persons with disabilities

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during the International Day of Persons with Disabilities event in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A comprehensive document detailing rights and opportunities available to persons with disabilities in Karnataka, and a braille calendar for 2025 was launched

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who also holds charge of the Finance Department, said that the State government will allocate ₹44 crore more to the Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens in the upcoming supplementary estimates to the Budget.

He was speaking after inaugurating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities here on Tuesday.

Facing flak

This comes after recent criticism over massive cuts to allocation to the department in the 2024-25 Budget. Compared to the ₹55 crore allocated in 2023-24, the department was allocated only ₹10 crore in the 2024-25 Budget. This had hampered several welfare programmes for persons with disabilities, it was alleged. With the assurance of ₹44 crore in the supplementary estimates, the allocation will again jump to ₹54 crore.

The State government on Tuesday symbolically launched a new programme that provides ₹1,000 monthly allowance for caregivers of persons with disabilities. This programme was announced in the 2024-25 Budget.

Monthly allowance

Mr. Siddaramaiah also said the government will write to the Union government appealing for an increase in the monthly allowance to persons with physical and mental disabilities. Presently, those with 40% to 74% disability are being given a monthly allowance of ₹800 and those with over 75% disability ₹1,400, and persons with mental disabilities are given ₹2,000.

A comprehensive document detailing rights and opportunities available to persons with disabilities in Karnataka, and a braille calendar for 2025 was launched at the event.

Crusaders fighting for welfare of those with blood disorders receive national award

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Two people from Karnataka, who have been separately spearheading efforts to highlight blood disorders and those suffering with social stigma and struggling with financial burden, were honoured with Shresth Divyangjan, a national award for empowerment of persons with disabilities.

On Tuesday, Suresh Hanagavadi, founder of Karnataka Haemophilia Society, and G. Manjudarshini, a sub-registrar posted at Srirangapatna, were presented the national award. Their efforts have not only created awareness on the "hidden disability in the blood", but they have successfully lobbied with governments to bring policy changes.

While Dr. Hanagavadi, a haemophilia patient, is credited with creating awareness about the disorder in society for over three decades, besides facilitating policy changes,

G. Manjudarshini receiving the Shresth Divyangjan award from President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ms. Manjudarshini, who has thalassaemia, has worked with the Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Society and blood banks highlighting the importance of preventing the disorder.

"Thalassaemia patients depend on others for blood transfusion that happens once in 15 or 21 days. Bone marrow transplant is very expensive. People lose hope or feel depressed owing to such conditions. I work with children, motivating them, and also spread awareness about the need for screening to prevent child birth with blood disorders," said Ms. Manjudarshini, who requires blood transfusion once in 21 days.

The 33-year old government official, who volunteers with Rashtrotthana Blood Centre and Samraksha, lost her sister to thalassaemia, over two decades ago. The incident

Suresh Hanagavadi

spurred her foray into social service.

"I have had more than 500 transfusions till now but many of my friends do not know about my condition. I have also not sought any special preferences," she said.

Dr. Hanagavadi, currently a professor of pathology at JJM Medical College, Davangere, and president of the society, which he co-founded in 1991, was spurred into becoming a medical practitioner after the death of his uncle from haemophilia.

"Thirty years ago the government was not involved in the management of haemophilia. We used to raise funds to buy medicines to be distributed among the needy as a large number of patients are poor," recalled Dr. Hanagavadi, who had a highly-sheltered childhood to prevent any injuries that could turn fatal.

He also credited the late singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam for helping raise funds.

"Today, the society has established a well-equipped laboratory for blood diseases and other facilities needed at Davangere to serve those requiring treatment. Barring subsidised cost for laboratory services, every other facility including blood component is free," said Dr. Hanagavadi.

By 2000, the society had been advocating for free medicines to be distributed through district hospitals, which the government implemented, he said, adding that awareness had also been created among government doctors to handle haemophilia patients.

AI-powered accessibility audit campaign launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), in collaboration with the Bengaluru-headquartered Association of People with Disability (APD), announced the launch of a nationwide accessibility audit campaign.

The organisations signed an MoU at the National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities held in New Delhi.

The campaign will be powered by APD's YesToAccess app, India's first-of-its-kind AI-powered tool designed for accessibility audits. The app allows anyone – persons with or without disabilities – to assess the accessibility of public spaces. By clicking a photograph of a structure using their phone, users can analyse features such as ramps, railings, accessible toilets, tactile pathways, and clear signage. The app generates real-time accessibility scores, which are made publicly available on an interactive map, helping to identify and promote barrier-free spaces across India.

"The nationwide accessibility audit campaign is a key step under the Accessible India Campaign to ensure that public spaces become more inclusive and accessible for all citizens. By leveraging technology and empowering persons with disabilities to lead these audits, we are creating a foundation for a more equitable society," said Rajesh Aggarwal, secretary, DEPwD.

According to a release from APD, the YesToAccess app, unlike traditional accessibility audits that rely heavily on expert teams, makes the process inclusive and scalable by encouraging participation from citizens, schoolchildren, volunteers, and organisations.

The app's AI capabilities simplify audits while ensuring accurate data collection, it said.

"YesToAccess is a cutting-edge use of AI and camera-vision to solve an intractable societal problem. As an accessibility solution, it enables untrained but socially conscious individuals and communities to come together to map and improve accessibility in public spaces. This campaign is about removing the barriers that prevent the disabled from participating in society as full and equal citizens of our great nation," noted Jacob Kurian, honorary secretary & trustee, APD.

RELATED STORY ON
» E-PAPER PAGE 9

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General public that my client **Sri. Siddaiah, S/o. Late Chikkaputtaiahgowda,** Aged about 61 years, R/at No.211, 1st Main, 6th Cross, Remco Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560 040, is the owner of below mentioned schedule property and he had lost the original Sale Deed dated 13.12.2006 registered as Document No. KEN-1-33737/2006-07, Stored in C.D. No. KEND357, in the office of the Sub- Registrar, Kengeri, Bangalore. The schedule property is as follows:
All that piece and parcel of immovable property being a vacant site bearing **No.161,** Katha No.164, situated at **Sulekere Grampanchayath limits Ramasandra Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,** measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 50+52/2 feet totally measuring 240 sq. ft and bounded on the **East by :Site No.160, West by : Site No.162, North by : Road, South by : Private Property;**
In this connection he had lodged a missing complaint vide **GSC No.1340361/2024 on 18.11.2024** with the jurisdiction police station, Bangalore. If any person/ persons who finds it, is requested to return the same to the above mentioned address.
Manjunath K.V. & Associates, Advocates, No.3/1(Old NO.359), 1st Floor, 14th Cross, 4th Main, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore -560 080, Ph: 080 23618018

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my client, Mr.Sridharan S/o.Raman, Aged about 60 years, residing at No.# 160, 5th cross, Gajendra Nagar, Old Baiyappanahalli, Maruthi Sevanagara, Bangalore-560033, has LOST THE ORIGINAL SALE DEED DATED 29.01.2003, REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.16792/2002-03 OF BOOK-1, STORED IN CD NO.71, IN THE OFFICE OF THE PHOTO-REGISTRAR, KRISHNARAJAPURA, BANGALORE, REGISTERED ON 31.01.2003, LOST AT GAJENDRAAGAR OLD BYAPPANAHALLI, BANGALORE -560033 ON 25.07.2024, BETWEEN 10:00AM TO 12:00PM. A COMPLAINT IS LODGED IN ONLINE DATED 02.09.2024 VIDE LOST REPORT BEARING NO.1221599/2024, Finders may return the same to the near Police Station or contact at the below address.
if any persons, firm, company, Financial institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the below mentioned address in writing within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.
BHASKAR.M,
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS,
Office: No.40, 2nd Floor, 71st Cross, near 6th Block Signal, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010 **Land line**: 080-48520073

To advertise for
Healthcare, Hotel, Restaurant & Entertainment I Cinema advertisements
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Kindly contact
Basavaraj - 9448364925
or mail your enquiry to basavaraju.c@thehindu.co.in
THE HINDU

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2024-25/68
Dated: 26-11-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
(Re-tender) Ashokapuram - Construction of OHT of 2.5 lakh liters capacity and GLR of 1.0 lakh liters capacity at Ashokapuram.	Rs. 8,83,780/-

Last date for submission of bids : **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 17-12-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General
PUB/605/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Mysuru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
SALEM DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE SR.DIVISONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEER ELECTRIC LOCO SHED, ERODE
E-TENDER NOTICE
Online tender are invited for the following work
Tender No: SA_A_RS_ED_OT_24_25_10, Dated: 29-11-2024
Description of work: Works contract for Rehabilitation of Tap Changer of electric locomotives available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.
All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**
Sr.DEE/RS/ED

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
NO. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2024-25-11 Dated: 02.12.2024
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager/Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Southern Railway, Chennai - 3, invites online tender from the experienced Contractors for the following works for further details, please refer to **www.ireps.gov.in**

Tender No & Name of the Work	Value (₹)	Closing date/time
Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2024-25-11	34,33,665.23	23/12/2024 (15:00 hrs)
Modification of existing OHE arrangement to avoid infringment of two ROBs of Highways department with OHE in CGL-AJJ section of Chennai Division		

(Sr.DEE/TRD/MAS)
Divisional Railway Manager, Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Chennai - 3

CORRIGENDUM
This Corrigendum is being issued in continuation of our Public Notice dated **10th October 2024,** published in this publication **("said Public Notice"),** in respect of the property more particularly described in the Schedule thereunder written **("Property").** Subsequent to the publication of the said Public Notice, the description of the Property is to be read as follows:
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ALL THAT piece and parcel of the Converted **Residential Lands** as detailed hereunder:

Sl. No.	Survey Nos.	Town Municipal Khata Number	Measurement of Land (in Square Meters)	Conversion Order bearing Nos:
01.	371/2	4368/368/3/371/1/371/2/372/368/2/397/368/4368/6/368/7	9,101.50	ALN(D)SR114/2004-05 dated 19th January 2005 & ALN(D)SR:68 of 2005-06 dated 13th May 2005
02.	371/1	-Do-	290.90	ALN(D)SR67/2005-06 dated 10th May 2005
03.	368/6 (Old Survey No.368/1)	-Do-	1,601.60	ALN(D)SR:49 of 2009-10 dated 7th June 2010
04.	368/7 (Old Survey No.368/1)	-Do-	14.60	ALN(D)SR:48 of 2009-10, dated 7th May 2010

and the proposed residential projects, being developed on the aforesaid survey numbers thereon at **'Brigade Orchards',** in Ward No. 22, Devanahalli Town Municipal, situated at Devanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and having uninterrupted rights and access over the common areas, passages, access roads, etc., and amenities provided therein in the **'Brigade Orchards'** and the aforesaid land is butted and bounded, that is to say, as follows:
On the East by : Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 371/1;
On the West by : Sy. No. 370 & Remaining Portion in Sy. No. 368/7;
On the North by : Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 371/2; and
On the South by : Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 368/6.In view of the aforesaid, the said Public Notice is to be read with this Corrigendum.
Dated this 3rd day of December 2024.
Through its Advocates
Partha Mandal, Founding Partner
IC UNIVERSAL LEGAL LLP
Advocates & Solicitors 5th Floor, 'Phoenix Pinnacle'
46, Ulsoor Road Bangalore - 560 042. Phone:- +91 80 6761 6000

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client is intending to purchase the schedule property from **Sri. K.T.RAMACHANDRA,** S/o. Late. Sri.Thimmappa, Aged about 64 years, Residing at Patelru Mane, Kanminike Village, Kumbalagodu, Bengaluru- 560060, (AADHAR No. XXXX XXXX 4311). Anybody, including Bangalore Development authority or any other authority, has got any sort of right, claim, interest over the schedule property or having any sort of objection for the said transaction shall approach the under mentioned advocate within **7 days** from this day with documentary evidence, failing which my client shall proceed further in accordance with the terms of the agreement to sell considering there is no objection to the said sale transaction.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the immovable agricultural property bearing Re. **Sy No. 80/2, old Sy.No.80,** having khata No. 50, **measuring 0-36 guntas out of 3 acres 16 guntas** of dry land, Situated at **Kaniminike Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface including all the rights and privileges thereon and bounded on:
AND BOUNDED ON:
East by : Land belonging to Smt. Kavalamma and Sri. Thimmappa. **West by :** Land belonging to Sri. Thimmappa and Sri. Maradi Govindappa and Sri. **North by :** Land belonging to Smt. Lakshmamma other Sy No, **South by :** Property of Sri. Ramachandra portion.
N.S. SHIVASHANKAR, Advocate
48/1, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross, Opp: Canara Bank, Vallabha Nagar, Uttarahalli Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bangalore-61. Ph No. 9343094442, 080-41628629

LOST DOCUMENT
R. Padmavati W/o Basavachar, 57 years old, Residing at No. 527, Siddaganga, 7/1, 7th Main Road, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore-19, I am the owner of No. 16, Marasandra Village, Kanasavadi Gram Panchayat, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk. On 29.11.2024, I filed a complaint with the police station regarding the unintentional loss of the purchase deed, with complaint number 1358541/2024. If someone find the registration deed, kindly inform to this mobile number 9880241922 / 9740513574 by calling.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client proposes to purchase the Schedule Property from **Sri.C.V.Srinivas,** and others, Aged about 59 years, S/o.Late.Sri.Venkatarayappa, Residing at No.03, H.S.Garden, Chikkaballapur Town, Chikkaballapura Taluk.
Any person/s having any manner of claims/objections for the proposed purchase may lodge their claims/ objections with the undersigned, with documentary evidence within Seven (07) days from the date of this publication. Any claims/ objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/ objections.
SCHEDULE - PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Land bearing Old Sy.No.62, New Sy.No.161, of Kuppahalli Village, Nandhi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk and District, measuring 3.00 Acres and bounded on the: **East by:** Remaining Land in Sy.No.62; **West by :** Road; **North by :** Road and Remaining Land in Sy.No.62; **South by:** Remaining Land in Sy.No.62. (Presently Road).
Y.S.H.Reddy, Advocate
No.503, 1st Floor,
Sai Leela Suites, 1st Main,
7th Cross, H.M.T.Layout,
Parallel to 80 Feet Road,
R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru- 560 032.
Mobile: 98863 78570.

THE CENTRAL ARECANUT & COCOA MARKETING & PROCESSING CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED
P.B. No. 223, VARANASHI TOWERS, MISSION STREET, MANGALORE-01
SALE NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Notice is here by given to the public in general that, we **"THE CENTRAL ARECANUT & COCOA MARKETING & PROCESSING CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED"** intend to sell our own immovable property site having extent of 9600 Sqft,(60 feet X160 Feet) located in the Santhekatte market yard at Birur city, Chikkamagalur district. The property will be sold on **"As is where is"**, **"As is what is"**, and **"Whatever there is"** conditions. The reserve price is **"Rs.1,92,00,000/-"**, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD @1% of the reserve price) **Rs.1,92,000/-.** Last date for submission of quotation along with EMD is 30 days from the date of publication of this notification. Parties who are interested to buy the above plot may refer further details/Quotation format from our website **"www.campco.org"**
Contact: Head Office Mangalore: 0824- 2888229. Branch: 6366875064
Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our Client is desirous of purchasing the residential property described in the Schedule written hereunder and hereinafter referred to as **"THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY"**, from (i) Sri S. Chandrashekar, (ii) Smt. Lakshmidevi S., (iii) Srinivas Rao S., and (iv) Smt. Jayalakshmi S., all children of Late Sri Chayappa, all are residing at No.877, 1st A Main Road, 6th D Cross Road, Kengeri Upanagara, Bengaluru 560 060 having purchased the same under Sale Deed 11/03/2002 also by succession thereto by inheritance.
Any person/s asserting any right/s, interest, title or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Property in any manner whatsoever, or has any right/s or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Property or has any objection/s to such sale in favour of our Client, is/are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned in writing alongwith documentary proof thereof, within seven (07) days from the date of issuance of this Public Notice. If no such written objections/claims or documents are received by the undersigned within the aforesaid period, our Client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claim/s and/or objection/s whatsoever with regard to the Schedule Property and will conclude the sale transaction.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of vacant residential property bearing Site No.230, formed in Survey No. 12/15, Form B Katha No. 12/15/230, Old V. P. Khatha No.66, BBMP Form-B SI.No.7384, situated at Thanisandra Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, erstwhile Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, now comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, BBMP Ward No.06, measuring East to West: (33+39)/2 Feet and North to South: 40 Feet, in all measuring 1,440 Square Feet, duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide Conversion Order No.BDS/ALN/SR(SA)33/1996-97, dated 29/08/1996, issued by District Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, and bounded as follows:On the East :By Road; West:By Site No.228;North:By Site No.229; and South :By Road;
M/s. Sundaraswamy & Ramdas, Advocates, No.24, Keshava Nivas, Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore – 560 009.
03rd December 2024 Ph: 22263838, 22380809
Bengaluru E-mail: admin@sundaraswamy.com

THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU REWIND 2024 TRIVIA QUIZ
DAY 04
1. Who was named the Player of the Series in the ICC T20 World Cup, held in South Africa and won by India in 2024?
2. In August 2024, which Bangladeshi leader resigned and sought refuge in India after 15 years in power amidst deadly unrest?
3. In 2024, a 21-year-old from Kerala created India's first AI software engineer capable of generating code and fixing bugs. Inspired by Devin, the world's first autonomous AI engineer from Cognition Labs, what was it called?
*T&C apply.
Scan QR code or visit bit.ly/Rewind2024TriviaQuiz take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.
Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Starliner
2. Coldplay
3. Maharashtra
Yesterday's Winners:
1. Boby.S, Kerala | 2. Nagendra Kumar, Vijayawada | 3. R.Subbulakshmi, Chennai

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

EXPLAINER

What are the toxins of the 1984 Bhopal disaster?

Past reports have indicated worrisome concentrations of hexachlorobutadiene, chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, and trichlorobenzene at the site of the plant, in addition to elevated levels of heavy metals

Vasudevan Mukunth

Forty years after the Bhopal disaster on December 2-3, 1984, several hundred tonnes of toxic waste still remain around the ill-fated Union Carbide plant. Despite pleas from locals and activists – bolstered over the years by orders from the National Green Tribunal and the Supreme Court – to dispose of the waste, the Madhya Pradesh government has only been able to get rid of a small fraction.

Chemical analyses of soil, air, and water samples collected from the area have revealed the presence of toxic compounds at elevated concentrations. This year, Madhya Pradesh received ₹126 crore from the Union government to incinerate around 340 tonnes of the aboveground material, but others have resisted the plan saying burning the compounds will release poisonous fumes that could lead to further contamination and adverse health effects.

What toxins are associated with the disaster?

Union Carbide India, Ltd. (UCIL) built the Bhopal plant in the late 1960s to manufacture an insecticide called carbaryl using a reaction of methyl isocyanate (MIC) with 1-naphthol. MIC is a highly toxic compound. It reacts with water at high temperatures, and its reaction with water also releases heat.

On the night of December 2, 1984, a large quantity of water entered a tank storing MIC at the plant such that the MIC was soon boiling. Facilities at the plant to cool the tank were otherwise diverted, leaving MIC vapours to escape to the environment and spread through the settlements around the plant. MIC doesn't have a particular smell at concentrations at which other gases may become noticeable but it can irritate the eyes. However, given the hours, most of the people exposed to the gas were asleep.

The Union Carbide Corporation has never officially specified which gases were leaked from the plant, including MIC. This decision also compromised health workers' ability to respond effectively to the hordes of people who showed up in clinics and hospitals in Bhopal that night and the next day.

Some visual cues, including the blood-red colour of the viscera of those who died, also raised concerns that hydrogen cyanide was present in the fumes.

What are the toxins at the plant?

As *The Hindu* reported on December 2, "a 2010 government-commissioned study showed that ... the factory premises also contain about 11 lakh tonnes of contaminated soil, one tonne of mercury, and nearly 150 tonnes of underground dumps" – in addition to the 340 metric tonnes earmarked for incineration.

In 2001, the *International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health* published an editorial by Jayshree Chander, then at the School of Medicine at the University of California San Francisco. Here, Dr. Chander citing a Greenpeace report released in 1999, based on analyses of samples collected at the site in May that year, wrote that Greenpeace reported the presence of mercury, chromium, copper, nickel, and lead. According to her, the report also noted the presence of hexachlorobutadiene, chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, and trichlorobenzene, among other compounds.

Reports from the area have also said the plant was disposing of untreated liquid effluent before the events of 1984.

In 2004, the Supreme Court ordered Madhya Pradesh to supply drinking water from tankers to 14 communities around the plant; by 2013 this exercise had expanded to encompass 22 communities.

In 2017, in response to a plea from an NGO, the court ordered the Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR) to test water samples in 20 more communities.

In 2018, the IITR reported higher than permitted concentrations of nitrate and chloride compounds and heavy metals. The court subsequently ordered Madhya Pradesh to expand its water-supply operations to 42 communities overall. Since then, according to Amnesty International, the same NGO and others have identified persistent organic pollutants in 29 more communities and have described it as evidence of contamination still spreading from the plant.

How toxic are heavy metals?

Chromium, copper, lead, mercury, and nickel are classified as heavy metals because their density is at least 5x that of water. Mercury has been known to damage multiple organs even at low concentrations by accumulating in soft tissue and preventing normal cellular function.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has said there is "sufficient evidence" for arsenic and its compounds being able to cause cancers of the urinary bladder and the lungs; for hexavalent chromium to cause cancers of the lungs; and for nickel and its mixtures to cause cancers of the lungs, nose, nasal cavity, and the paranasal sinuses.

According to a 2002 paper in the journal *Pathogens and Disease*, "Chromium is an essential nutrient required by the human body to promote the action of insulin for the utilisation of sugars, proteins and fats. ... But high doses of chromium and long term exposure can give rise to various cytotoxic and genotoxic reactions that affect the immune system of the body."

Lead is capable of damaging chlorophyll and disrupting photosynthesis in plants and rendering structural damage to cells and hampering their ability to produce energy in animals. Also, lead from inorganic compounds has been correlated with stomach cancer and to a lesser degree with cancers of the lungs, kidneys, and the brain.

High levels of copper in the body have been known to damage the liver, the kidneys, and the gastrointestinal system.

How are organic compounds harmful?

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, hexachlorobutadiene is a possible carcinogen in humans.

When inhaled, ingested, or brought in contact with skin, this compound can cause the liver to store too much fat (hepatic steatosis), destroy cells in the kidneys involved in producing urine, and inhibit brain activity, among other effects. It is also corrosive.

Chloroform by another name is trichloromethane, and is infamous for its effects on the central nervous system. At a sufficient concentration, it can cause an adult to faint, but at even higher ones it can cause death. The IARC has classified chloroform as "possibly carcinogenic" on the back of limited evidence of cancer-causing potential in humans but more reliable evidence in animals.

In the PubChem database of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, carbon tetrachloride, that is carbon tet, is classified as an "acute toxin" and a "health hazard". It is notorious for its ability to damage the liver, including causing cancer. At present, a common way to be exposed to carbon tet is via contaminated groundwater. According to at least one review, ingesting 1 ml of carbon tet can blur vision, damage nerves, and/or cause heartbeat to become irregular.

Trichlorobenzene can take three chemical forms, or isomers, but all of them are volatile and spread easily through the air, although they have also been found in groundwater and in surface water bodies like lakes.

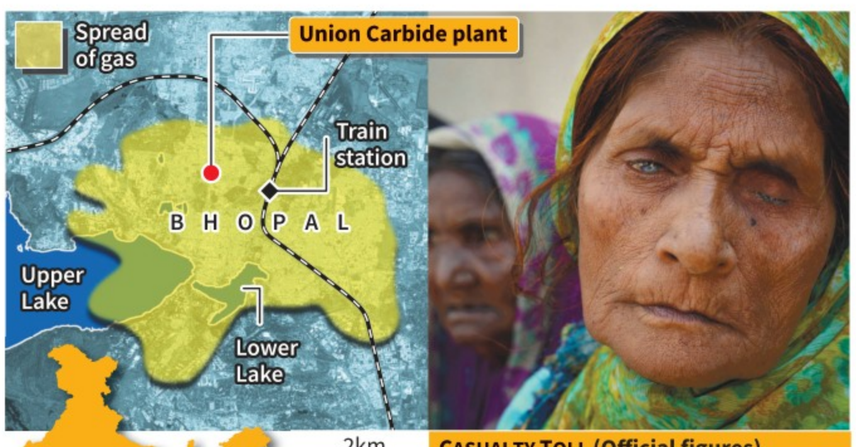
These compounds build up in the body's fatty tissues and at high concentrations can damage the liver and the kidneys.

Finally, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) refer to organic compounds that don't break down easily and thus last for many years in the environment once they enter it. According to the Stockholm Convention on POPs, their effects include "cancer, allergies and hypersensitivity, damage to the central and peripheral nervous systems, reproductive disorders, and disruption of the immune system." Some POPs have also been associated with developmental disorders and worse outcomes in cancers of the liver, breasts, pancreas, and the prostate.

Note: The toxic effects described in this article are not guaranteed to occur, even at the requisite concentration, because toxicity also depends on the demographic, physiological, and genetic characteristics of the exposed individual.

Toxins linger 40 years on

Chemical analyses of soil, air, and water samples collected from the area around the ill-fated Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh have revealed the presence of toxic compounds at elevated concentrations. Several hundred tonnes of toxic waste still lie around the plant



CASUALTY TOLL (Official figures)
Deaths (Dec 3-6, 1984): **3,787**
Injured: **5,58,125,** including **3,900** permanently disabled
Activists say 25,000 people have died, with a further 1,00,000 still suffering from different sicknesses

RESPONSIBILITY
The Indian government argues that slack management and deferred maintenance caused the disaster. Then-plant owner, the U.S. firm Union Carbide Corporation (UCC), blamed sabotage

In 2010, eight former managers of the plant were convicted of negligence and sentenced to short prison terms

UCC chairman Warren Anderson, who left India soon after the disaster, was sought by the Indian government, which had called for his extradition from the U.S. He died in September 2014, aged 92

COMPENSATION
In 1989, UCC paid $470m to the Indian government to settle litigation stemming from the disaster

But India is now backing a new court case to secure greater compensation – Dow Chemical, which bought UCC in 2001, denies liability

Payouts by the Indian government to Bhopal claimants over the years reportedly average $550 apiece

CONTAMINATION
Environmentalists say the toxic chemicals remaining in the abandoned plant continue to leak, causing health problems

Dow says contamination is the responsibility of Indian authorities who took control of the site in 1998

Sources: Indian government, Madhya Pradesh government Picture: AP © GRAPHIC NEWS

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian Upendran

"How goes it? Everything O.K.?"

"Everything's pretty cool. But what is the meaning of 'how goes it?'."

"It means 'how are you and how are things going?'."

"Is it a common way of greeting people?"

"Yes. It is. 'How goes it?' is usually used with people you know fairly well."

"The standard form is 'how are you?."

"I tell you English is a crazy language."

"Now, now. Take it easy. Don't fly off the handle!"

"Fly off the handle? Oh yes. it means a sudden out-burst of anger, doesn't it? Tell me, is the handle that is referred to in the expression, a door handle?"

"No, not a door handle. But the handle of an axe."

"An axe!"

"Yes. that's right. And the thing that flies off the handle is the axe-head. You see the expression 'fly off the handle' dates back to the time when all our tools were hand-made."

"You mean a time when most of our implements were crude?"

"That's right. In the case of the axe, for example, the handle and the head were crudely fitted together. On occasions, while a person was chopping wood, the axe-head used to fly off, or come off the handle, sometimes injuring the axeman or the people standing nearby."

"That must have caused a lot of commotion."

"It did. And that's why they came up with the expression "fly off the handle". The commotion caused by a flying axe-head was very similar to the commotion caused by someone's sudden outburst of anger."

"So a person who becomes angry, that is, loses his head, is like a flying axe-head. Is that what you are saying-"

"Yes, because both are potentially dangerous. Capish?"

"Ca ... what?"

"Capish. The first syllable 'ca' is pronounced like the 'co' in words like 'continue', 'correct' and 'corruption'."

"And 'pish' rhymes with 'fish', I suppose."

"Not quite. The 'i' is like the 'ee' in words like 'bee', 'see' and 'fee'. The word is pronounced capish, with the stress on the second syllable."

"Capish. I think I've got that. But what does it mean?"

"It means 'understand'. It's from an Italian dialect. In American English, 'capish' is usually used as a question. Here are two examples. You have to go to college tomorrow. No more arguments. Capish? If you don't submit your assignment by one on Friday, you'll get a zero, capish? By the way, you won't find the word in dictionaries. It is a buzz word. The younger generation considers it fashionable to use the word."

"I think I understand."

"Good. Ciao, then."

"Ciao? Oh yes. I remember! It means 'goodbye' in Italian."

"That's right. I've got some work. See you later."

Published in The Hindu on April 19, 1994.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Cyclone Fengal has wreaked havoc across the country. The name 'Fengal' was proposed by Saudi Arabia. Here is a quiz on cyclone names and its conventions

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
Cyclones in the North Indian Ocean are named by member countries of the World Meteorological Organization and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific panel. This panel includes how many countries? This system has been in place since which year?

QUESTION 2
Following Fengal, what is the name of the next cyclone that will make a landfall. Which country has named it?

QUESTION 3
Cyclone Ockhi was a strong tropical cyclone that devastated parts of Sri Lanka and India in 2017. It wreaked havoc in Kerala, Goa, Lakshadweep and Tamil Nadu. The name was given by which country?

QUESTION 4
Cyclone Dana made landfall along the Odisha coast in October 2024. Dana's name was suggested by Qatar. What did it mean?

QUESTION 5
This cyclone, named by India, is regarded as the worst tropical cyclone to ever strike the Yemeni island of Socotra, causing destruction there after Cyclone Chapala hit the same island, in 2015. What was it called?

QUESTION 6
What is the maximum number of letters the name of a cyclone can have?

Visual question:
This image plots the intensity of the affected areas. This 1970 cyclone was named in East Pakistan, which is now Bangladesh. Name it.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This country has hosted the most Day and Night Test matches after Australia. **Ans: India**
2. This non-Test playing country has hosted Day and Night Test matches. **Ans: UAE**
3. This country has played in the most Day and Night Test matches after Australia. **Ans: England**
4. This player has scored the most runs and most hundreds. **Ans: Marnus Labuschagne**
5. This player has picked up most wickets. **Ans: Mitchell Starc**
6. This player holds the best bowling figures in an innings. **Ans: Devender Bishoo**
7. This is the only bowler to pick up five or more wickets in each innings. **Ans: Axar Patel**
8. The common connection between the South Africa versus Zimbabwe Test match and India versus England. **Ans: Both Tests got over in just 2 days**
9. The connection between the achievements of Shafiq and Holder. **Ans: They are the only players to win the award despite ending up on the losing side**
Visual: Identify the players. **Ans: Azhar Ali and David Warner. Only batters to score a triple century**
Early Birds: Tito Shiladitya| Tamal Biswas| Sonali Das| Dodo Jayaditya

Word of the day

Equable:
not easily irritated; not varying

Synonyms: even-tempered, good-tempered, placid

Usage: *The climate is equable, with pleasant springs and cool winters.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/equablepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈɛk.wə.bəl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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Ballari maternal deaths: Health Dept. seeks action against manufacturer

Death of four new mothers was reported in the district hospital between November 9 and 11

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the recent maternal deaths at the State-run district hospital attached to the Ballari Medical College and Research Centre in Ballari, the Karnataka Health Department has written to the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) to investigate the Standard Quality certification issued by the Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL), Kolkata, to M/s. Paschim Banga Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturer of Compound Sodium Lactate Injection I.P (Ringer's lactate).

The State has also sought action against the manufacturer.

Ringer's lactate (RL), an intravenous fluid which is used to restore hydration and fluid balance in the body, was supplied by this manufacturer, and it was used in the hospital.

Between November 9 and 11, four maternal deaths were reported to have occurred following the caesarean section procedure. Out of the 34 such operations during the three days, seven women developed complications such as acute kidney injury requiring haemodialysis and multi-organ dysfunction.

Ballari Medical College and Research Centre to which the district hospital is attached. FILE PHOTO

Of the seven, four women died, including one on November 26. A confidential review of the deaths by a team of specialists constituted by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences revealed that there was no negligence or dereliction of duty by the doctors at the hospital. The report said that all protocols and patient care guidelines were followed.

Batches frozen earlier

Pointing out that further investigation into the deaths is underway, Principal Secretary (Health) Harsh Gupta wrote to the Drugs Controller of India on Tuesday that the batches supplied by the company had been frozen for use during March 2023 by the Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited. (KSMSCL).

"This was after two batches were found to be 'Not of Standard Quality' (NSQ) by the Government Analyst at Drugs Testing Laboratory, Karnataka. Subsequently, the manufacturer challenged some of these NSQ reports and on being referred to the CDL, Kolkata by the competent court, the CDL, Kolkata had found these to be SQ," the letter stated.

"Based on a letter by KSMSCL, different batches of the said drug were drawn for test and analysis by the Drugs Control officers across Karnataka from the district drug warehouses, out of which 22 batches failed in various parameters including tests for sterility and test for bacterial endotoxins/particulate matter. Few of these NSQ reported samples have also been found to be Standard Quality by the CDL Kolkata later," the letter stated.

"Since August 2024, some of the earlier frozen batches which had not been yet tested by the officers of the Drugs Controller Department or which had been found to be of Standard Quality by the government analyst had been released by the KSMSCL after those were certified to be SQ by NABL empanelled laboratories. The KSMSCL has still not released any of such batches found to be NSQ by the government Analyst, Drugs Testing Laboratory, Karnataka, even though some of these batches were found to be SQ by the CDL later," the letter stated.

" "As the CDL Kolkata comes under the purview of your office, we request you to get the matter investigated at your end and initiate necessary action against the manufacturer and others concerned on priority basis. We also request you to direct the Drugs Controller of West Bengal and your subordinate zonal officers to extend cooperation during investigation at the manufacturing unit by the officers of this State," the letter added.

Snack time: A woman feeding stray dogs at Kengeri on Tuesday. The BBMP launched its ambitious dog feeding programme in select areas across eight zones on October 17. SUDHAKARA JAIN

BBMP covers 1,000 more dogs under new feeding initiative

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Health Department of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has covered 1,000 more dogs under its ambitious dog feeding programme to take care of strays and reduce aggression caused due to hunger.

The BBMP had launched this pilot programme in select areas across eight zones in Bengaluru on October 17. Initially, the civic body was feeding 100 dogs.

Under the initiative, pourakarmikas, health officials, animal husbandry officers, animal lovers, pet owners, and interested citizens are working together to collect leftover food from hotels and restaurants to feed stray dogs. The primary goal is to provide food to community dogs in areas where they lack access to regular meals, with food being distributed once a day.

BBMP Special Commissioner (Health) Surakar Vikas Kishor told *The Hindu*, "The feeding programme for 100 dogs was successful. Now, it has become a daily habit for the dogs to come to the designated area at the time of feeding. From the last week, we have increased the designated areas in eight zones. We have now covered 1,000 more dogs."

Asked about any changes in behaviour among the dogs covered under this initiative, he said the BBMP has so far neither made any observation nor generated data on dog bite cases in these areas.

The health department of the civic body will soon come up with a plan to observe these dogs for behavioural changes. Dog biting cases will also be tracked. "The city has more than 2.50 lakh dogs. With 100 dogs, the sample survey is very less," he added.

Another health official said in some areas where designated spots have come up where the dogs are fed, it will definitely result in a change in aggression.

Arun Prasad, an animal activist, said the BBMP initiative is helping the strays in Bengaluru. "Earlier the BBMP's waste collection at the blackspots was poorly implemented. Stray dogs were eating the leftovers. The BBMP is now feeding them in designated areas, which has resolved the food crisis for the dogs at least in the locations where this programme is operational," he said.

Cyclone Fengal: City gets sporadic showers

The India Meteorological Department has forecast generally cloudy skies, light to moderate rain for the next 36 hours. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bringing relief to citizens, the rain that continuously lashed Bengaluru since November 30 halted for a brief period on Tuesday. However, post noon, the city witnessed sporadic showers till the evening.

The overnight rain caused traffic woes in the morning hours on Tuesday.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast generally cloudy skies, light to moderate rain for the next 36 hours. On Tuesday till 5.30 p.m., Bengaluru city received 21.2 mm rainfall.

Coastal Karnataka, especially Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts, has been receiving heavy rainfall. The administrations in nine districts have declared a holiday for schools and colleges.

No major flooding

According to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) no major damage and flooding were reported in the city. Multiple roads, particularly stretches on Outer Ring Road, Mysuru Road, Bannerghatta Road, Marathahalli, Sarjapur Road, and Shantinagar Road, saw inundation. Motorists found it hard to navigate through these stretches. .

According to the BBMP control room, a tree fell near the Vidhana Soudha. Trees and branches fell at J.P. Nagar, Wilson Garden, Basaveshwaranagar, and other places as well. But, no major damage was reported in the city.

'Agri start-ups can help insulate farmers from climate change impact'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy on Tuesday expressed confidence that agri start-ups would help farmers increase their farm incomes by mitigating the impact of climate change on agriculture.

Inaugurating the agri start-up conclave that had been organised by the University of Agricultural Sciences-Bengaluru on its campus, the Minister observed that climate change had turned out to be a big challenge for farmers in the present times.

In such a situation, hopes were on agri start-ups to insulate farming from the impact of climate change, he said. He called upon them to come out with more technologies to turn farming into a sustainable and remunerative activity.

To be entrepreneurs

In fact, Karnataka had set up a secondary agricultural secretariat for the first time in the country to encourage farmers to become entrepreneurs and maximise farm income through value addition, efficient marketing and exports, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, UAS-B Vice-chancellor S.V. Suresha observed that there was a dire need to focus on farmer-friendly technologies in tune with the present day requirements, such as robotics, mechanised farming and use of artificial intelligence in farm management.

The UAS-B was considering providing financial incentive to its students who set up farm start-ups, in a bid to encourage them, he said.

600 delegates

About 600 delegates participated in the conclave which showcased an exhibition by 50 start-ups about their technologies.

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society managing director H. V. Darshan and several agricultural experts participated in the event.

Dy. CM meets protesting waste collectors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar met protesting waste collectors of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) at Freedom Park on Tuesday.

The protesters demanded the regularisation of jobs similar to Pourakarmikas, who are paid by the BBMP, along with other employment benefits.

They said that the contractors paid them, but often with delays. "Many times the payments were late, making it difficult for us to manage our day-to-day affairs," they said.

The protesters demanded the implementation of the IPD Salappa committee report that bats for better pay and a slew of other benefits for civic workers.

Mr. Shivakumar, who went to the spot, said, "After the assembly sessions, I will invite various groups of workers to discuss the issue and find an amicable solution."

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

WE, Indranath K R and Prabhavathi M, R/a No.61, Sri Krishna Enclave, 5th Cross, Near Krishna School, Chikkadevavasandra, K R Puram Post, Bengaluru-560036 have changed our Minor Daughter's name from Bhavya Sree Indranath to Bhavya Shree I Yadav vide affidavit dt: 03.12.2024 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru.

I, MONISH Srinivas Rao, S/o Srinivasa Rao Tummalapalli, R/a No.38, Chairman Street, R S Palya, M S Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560033 have changed my name to S Monish vide affidavit dt: 02.12.2024 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru.

I, TEJASWINI.S, D/o Srinivas M, R/a No-1019/A, 17 C Cross, Indira Nagar, 2nd Stage, Opp Jain College, Bengaluru-560038 have changed my name to Tejashiwini.S vide affidavit dt: 02.12.2024 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-3)
P AND SC. No. 597/2024
Mr. Devaraju D.G S/o Late Govindaswamy R/at 31, Basapppa Reddy Compound Kanakanagara, J.P. Nagar 6th Phase, Bangalore-560078.
...PETITIONER
V/S
NIL ...RESPONDENTS
PUBLIC NOTICE
The Petitioner named above has filed this petition under section 276 of Indian Succession Act, 1925, before the City Civil and Sessions Judge at Bangalore CCH-3, praying to issue a letter of Probate Certificate in respect of Will dated 19-03-2001, executed by Late Sri. D. Krishnadas bequeathing the schedule property in favour of the petitioner, who was his caretaker. Late. Mr. D. Krishnadas demised on 09.06.2006. Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person or by pleader duly instructed on 3.01.2025 at 11.00 AM inform to show cause against the petitioner. Failure to appear will result in the matter being heard and decided ex parte.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of immovable Residential property bearing Old No.16, New No.16/2, situated at Haudin Road, off Ulsoor Road, Bangalore-560042, measuring 1618 Sq.feet, along with all appurtenances, and bounded on: North by: Property No.17, South by: Remaining Southern Portion of same Property No.16, East by: Haudin Road, West by: Premises No.15, Haudin Road.
Given under the hand and seal of the court, this 03rd day December 2024.
By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
ADDRESS FOR SERVICE:
M/s. PRAGNYA LAW
Chamber No. 19, 1st Floor, ASVNV Centenary Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru.
Reachusout@pragnyalaw.com
Ph : 9739414181

PUBLIC NOTICE

VAISHNAVI, of Indian Nationality holding Passport Number: X5839979 dated 05/03/2023 is announcing her willingness to changing her name to Vaishnavi Pujari. Whoever has an objections to this, kindly contact The General Directorate of Passports within 15 days from the date of its announcement in the newspaper.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby notified that my clients have agreed to purchase the below mentioned property from Sri. NAGENDRA TANGUTURI, Son of Sri. T. Surya Prakasam who has represented that he purchased the Schedule Property from his Vendors Viz., Sri. R.V. Ramaswamy and Sri. B.K. Rajendra in terms of an Absolute Sale Deed dated 01.12.2010, registered as Document No.JPN-1-06741-2010-11 of Book -1, Stored in CD No.JPND86, in the Office of the Sub-registrar, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore. Persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right in the Schedule Property may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within FIFTEEN (15) days from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my clients will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claimants/objections.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the House Property bearing Site No.301/A, BBMP PID bearing No.57-179-301/A, measuring East to West 9.14 Meters and North to South 6.10 Meters, in all measuring 55.754 Square Meters, situated at Sarakki 4th Phase Extension, 4th 'A' Main Road, J.P Nagar, Bangalore and bounded on:
EAST BY : Site No.302/A;
WEST BY : Road;
NORTH BY : Site No.300;
SOUTH BY : Site No.301/B.
Together with RCC roofing House Consisting of Ground Floor having super built-up area of 500 Square feet, First Floor having super built-up area of 400 Square feet and Second Floor having super built-up area of 400 Square feet and the doors and windows of the house building are fitted with ordinary wood, red oxide flooring, the walls are constructed with brick and cement, with all civic amenities provided thereon, together with all rights, Appurtenance Whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface of the Schedule Property.
BANGALORE
Dated : 02/12/2024
Advocates,
Sri. K.V. GOVARDHAN
Sri. P.S. JAGADISH
No.1029, 2nd Floor, Timmakka Complex, 7th Main, 1st Cross, 1st Block, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala
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(e-Tender id: 2024_COOP_ 17014_1)
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(e-Tender id: 2024_COOP_ 17015_1)
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MANAGING DIRECTOR

Now, lone student who chose Kannada-medium engineering course decides to shift

He has cited non-availability of enough course materials, problem of placement and absence of classmates as among the reasons for his decision

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Sagar T.S., the only student in Karnataka who was admitted to the Maharaja Institute of Technology (MIT) in Mysuru for the Kannada-medium mechanical engineering course for the first time in Karnataka, has decided to withdraw from the course. He expressed a desire to continue in the English medium. He cited the non-availability of enough course material, problems of placement, and absence of classmates as among the reasons for his decision.

A file photo of the Visvesvaraya Technological University in Belagavi.

However, Mr. Sagar is facing technical obstacles in changing the medium of instruction. The Visvesvarya Technological University (VTU) has to change it, or he has to withdraw from the Kannada-medium engineering course and re-enrol in the English-medium course under the management quota.

As part of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), the State government introduced Kannada-medium engineering courses in 2021-22. At that point, the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) gave permission to four private engineering colleges in Karnataka to offer civil and mechanical courses in the Kannada medium. VTU also released course material translated into Kannada.

For the first time, 17 students from across Karnataka opted for Kannada-medium engineering courses during CET counselling in 2021-22. However, they did not join the colleges. In 2022-23 and 2023-24, one student each opted for a Kannada-medium engineering course but eventually withdrew their applications.

During the CET 2024-25 counselling, two students, Raghavendra N. and Mr. Sagar, opted for the Kannada-medium mechanical engineering course at MIT in Mysuru. While Mr. Raghavendra withdrew from the course, Mr. Sagar took admission in the college.

"Along with this, I had also given optional entry to other courses. However, my CET ranking got me this course. I also got the same course during the first and second rounds of the seat allotment process. So, I joined the college. However, I was the only one in the entire college who was doing engineering in Kannada medium. So, I have decided to withdraw from this course and continue in English medium," said Mr. Sagar.

B.G. Nareshkumar, principal of MIT, explained the glitches in allowing Mr. Sagar to continue in the English medium engineering course. "It is difficult for Sagar, who is enrolled in the Kannada medium engineering course, to continue in the English medium course. If Karnataka Examinations Authority or VTU changes his course medium, he can continue in the English medium course. If not, he will have to re-enrol in the college under the management quota seat. Currently, there are two seats vacant in the mechanical engineering branch of our college, and the management has agreed to give one seat to Sagar. However, for this, he will have to pay an additional fee. The family has already paid a total of ₹1.15 lakh, and they are saying that it is difficult to pay the additional fee. Therefore, KEA or VTU should intervene," he said.

Mr. Sagar said it is very difficult for him to pay the additional fee. "If there is a possibility of changing the medium of the course, a request will be submitted to KEA and VTU," he said.

10-member gang, including KEA contractual employee, held for seat-blocking scam

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Malleswaram police have arrested a 10-member gang, including a contractual employee of the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), for their alleged involvement in the engineering seat-blocking scam.

The accused were identified as Sriharsha, 42, Prakash S.R., 42, Puneeth S.L., 27, Shashikumar S.K., 34, Purushotham, 24, Avinash B.S., 36, Tilak G., 60, Ravishankar S.C., 56, Dilshad Alam, 33, and Noushad Alam, 42.

The police have also recovered 13 mobile phones, three laptops, and several other documents which were allegedly set on fire to destroy the evidence as soon as the scam broke out. The recovered material has been sent to the forensics for analysis.

The issue came to light when the Administrative Officer of KEA, Islahuddin J. Gadiyal, noticed that 52 engineering government seats had been manipulated and blocked to help BMS Engineering College, Akash Institute of Engineering, and New Horizon Engineering College to sell under management quota. A police complaint was filed on November 13.

City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said: "The accused's modus operandi involved sourcing the details of the 52 seats using login passwords and a secret key of the candidates. The accused working in the KEA would share the details of the candidates with the other accused."

Mr. Dayananda said that the accused would also rope in some meritorious students to write the entrance exam to get seats and use their login and password details to block seats. They also targeted nursing and other professional courses. Based on the complaint, the police tracked down the accused from different places, including Goa, Shivamogga, Davangere, Kadur, and Bengaluru.

This not only amounts to cheating the entire CET exam process but also deprives eligible candidates of their seats, the police said.

Asked if any action would be taken against the institutions mentioned in the FIR, M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education, told *The Hindu*, "The case is still under investigation. We will take action after the final report."

Degree-for-cash: Case against management of Banashankari institute

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) officials have registered a cheating case against the management of a private educational institution for allegedly offering degree certificates for ₹2 lakh.

Based on a complaint by a city-based realtor, the police filed the case against the management of Mercury Academy Distance Education in Banashankari.

In October, the complainant contacted the institute after checking online for distance education courses for his nephew. A representative named Manish allegedly offered to provide any degree from any private college in the city without requiring admission or attendance. He also claimed to be able to obtain high school and PU certificates without admission or taking exams.

Initially, the complainant was apprehensive but later paid ₹10,000 as an enrolment fee. Within a few days, the complainant got the required certificates.

Tigress, cubs elusive in Mysuru dist.

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The forest authorities have continued operations at Shanthipura, Bochikatte and Chowkalli villages in H.D. Kote taluk in Mysuru district to capture an elusive tigress that had been spotted in the areas over the past few days.

THE HINDU
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Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 04		
RISE	06:28	SET 17:52
RISE	09:08	SET 20:39
THURSDAY, DEC. 05		
RISE	06:28	SET 17:53
RISE	10:00	SET 21:38
FRIDAY, DEC. 06		
RISE	06:29	SET 17:53
RISE	10:48	SET 22:34

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	23
Mysuru	25	20
Bengaluru	25	20

Bengaluru Today
25°C The weather will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C Mostly dry weather to prevail. Morning will be slight cool. Day will be comfortable with rise in temperature.

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From Page One

MUDA issue: Evidence of irregularities in CM's wife's case, says ED

There was also usage of "undue" favour and influence and "forging" of signatures have been detected during the Enforcement Directorate's money laundering investigation into the politically sensitive case.

The agency has also claimed to have found evidence that one of Mr. Siddaramaiah's personal assistants, S.G. Dinesh Kumar alias C.T. Kumar, wielded "undue influence" in the process.

The alleged illegal activities at MUDA "did not end" with the case of Ms. Parvathi as a total of 1,095 sites, with a market value of more than ₹700 crore were "illegally" allotted, according to an investigation report accessed by *PTI* and information from official sources.

"Most of the allotments have been made in the name of *benami* or dummy persons in the guise of land-losers. However, the beneficiaries of these illegal allotments are real estate businessmen and influential persons," the Enforcement Directorate probe found.

The ED is conducting a money laundering investigation against Mr. Siddaramaiah, Ms. Parvathi, the CM's brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy, Devaraju – from whom Mr. Mallikarjuna Swamy purchased the land under probe and gifted it to Ms. Parvathi – and some others after taking cognisance of a Karnataka Lokayukta Police FIR filed against them.

The Chief Minister, who has been questioned by the Lokayukta in this case, has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing by him or his family, saying these were politically motivated charges against him as the Opposition was "scared" of him.

It is alleged that 14 compensatory sites were allotted to Ms. Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru (Vijayanagar Layout third and fourth stages), which had higher property value as compared to the location of her land which had been "acquired" by MUDA.

The MUDA had allotted plots to Ms. Parvathi under a 50:50 ratio scheme in lieu of 3.16 acres of her land, where it developed a residential layout.

'Against guidelines'

The ED has informed the Lokayukta in the recent communication sent under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) that it can be evidently observed that the 14 sites were allotted "illegally" to Ms. Parvathi in "contravention" of statutory guidelines on allotment of sites.

It said that evidence related to tampering, violation of office procedures, exerting undue favour and influence, forging of signature, evidence tampering etc. is also evident from the investigation, the agency said. The ED said when this allotment was made to Ms. Parvathi, her son Yathindra was the MLA for the Varuna constituency and hence a member of the MUDA board.

THE HINDU
OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL

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GM(H&A)-Recruitment

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HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking under Ministry of Defence)
AVIONICS DIVISION :: HYDERABAD
Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a Maharatna Central Public Sector undertaking, is a premier Aeronautical Industry of South East Asia, with 21 Production/Overhaul/Service Divisions, 9 R&D Centres and 1 Facility Management Division, spread across the Country.
HAL, Hyderabad invites applications for the following posts:

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Medical Officer (Physician) - 1 UR post

Please visit HAL, Website www.hal-india.co.in for further details regarding Age, Qualification & Experience Requirements, Relaxations, Mode of Applying, Selection Procedure, location of posting etc. Last date of applying is **24.12.2024**.

COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
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Cochin Shipyard Limited, a listed premier Mini Ratna Schedule 'A' Company of Government of India, invites **Online applications** from young professionals for filling up the following disciplines of Executive Trainees:-

Sl. No.	Name of Discipline	UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS	Total vacancies
1	Mechanical	8	6	3	1	2	20
2	Electrical	2	1	1	-	-	4
3	Electronics	1	-	-	1	-	2
4	Naval Architecture	3	-	2	1	-	6
5	Civil	2	-	-	1	-	3
6	Information Technology	1	1	-	-	-	2
7	Human Resource	2	1	-	1	-	4
8	Finance	2	1	-	-	-	3
	Total	21	10	6	5	2	44

For details on age, reservation, educational qualification etc, please read the vacancy notification on CSL website **www.cochinshipyard.in (Career page→ CSL, Kochi). Last date of receipt of online application is 06 January 2025.**
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VC No.	Post	Positions	Venue & Date
YP/66/24	Team Leader	01	RITES Office-Gurgaon, Hyderabad, Chennai and online via video conferencing. Date: 18th to 20th December 2024
YP/67/24	Geo-Technical/Material Engineer	01	
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YP/69/24	Social Safeguard Specialist	01	

For details regarding how to Apply, Position, qualification, age, date & venue, selection process etc., candidates may see the detailed advertisement posted on RITES website **www.rites.com** under Career Section.

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1.	Executive Director - Operations	1	GT	TNPL Unit-I & Unit-II
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3.	Management Trainee - HR	2	BC (other than BCM)	TNPL Unit-I & TNPL Corporate Office, Chennai
4.	Management Trainee - Plantation	2	BC - 1 (other than BCM) & SC - 1	TNPL Unit-I

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For details relating to age, qualification, experience, etc., please visit our website: **www.tnpl.com/careers. Bio-data format (OFFLINE MODE) is available in our website.** Candidates who conform to the job requirements as given in the website may apply in the prescribed Bio-data format by post in strict confidence superscribing the name of the post (both in Bio-data and top of the Envelope) **within 15 days** from the date of release of this advertisement to the below mentioned address, giving full details of age, qualification with year of passing, experience, community, salary drawn and position being held along with copies of testimonials towards proof for the same. Bio-data form with insufficient documentary proof will be summarily rejected.
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For detailed advertisement on disciplines, eligibility criteria, general conditions and instructions for filling the **ONLINE APPLICATION,** please visit our website: **www.tnpl.com/careers.** Applicants should download the filled online application and send the hard copy along with the required documentary proof to the below mentioned address.

Online Application - Opening	04.12.2024 - 10.00 AM
Online Application - Closing	18.12.2024 - 5.00 PM
Receipt of Hard Copy of the Application form with Documentary Proof	25.12.2024 - 5.00 PM

GENERAL MANAGER-HR
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HC quashes FIR against Kateel on extortion plaint

Nirmala Sitharaman, officials of ED, and BJP leaders are also named as accused in the FIR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday quashed criminal proceedings initiated against Nalin Kumar Kateel, former president of the BJP's State unit, based on the first information report (FIR) registered against him, along with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and others, for alleged extortion.

"The apex court holds that where the allegations made in the FIR, even if they are taken to their face value, do not constitute a *prima facie* offence, such crime should be nipped in the bud. In the case on hand, there is not even a *modicum* of ingredients of the offence made out even to its *prima facie* sense, what the complainant projects is a huge *hocus-pocus*, but alas, he has no *locus*," the High Court observed in its order.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna

Nalin Kumar Kateel

passed the order while allowing the petition filed by Mr. Kateel, who has been arraigned as accused number 4 in the FIR.

The FIR was registered on the complaint of Adarsh R. Iyer, co-president of the Janaadhikaara Sangharsha Parishath, for "extorting" around ₹8,000 crore by compelling key personalities of certain companies to purchase electoral bonds in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after allegedly conducting raids and searches on their companies, and arresting key persons associated with the companies by misusing officials of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Petition not filed

However, the court said that criminal proceedings only against Mr. Kateel had been quashed. This is because the other persons named in the FIR, including Ms. Sitharaman, have not filed a petition challenging the FIR.

Referring to the apex court's interpretation of Section 39 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which empowers the general public to give information about certain offences, the High Court said the complaint of extortion, "under sections 383 and 384 [of the Indian Penal Code] is person specific, which would mean that they can be alleged only by the aggrieved person. It is not public specific."

Pointing out that putting the victim in fear of injury is imperative to attract the offence of extortion, the court said that if the complainant, Mr. Iyer, was put to fear for purchasing electoral bonds by Mr. Kateel or other accused then the complainant should have lodged a complaint of extortion.

However, "It is not the case of the complainant, even in the complaint, that he has been put to fear of injury and he has delivered any property to the accused. Therefore, meeting of ingredients, in the case at hand of Section 383 of the IPC, as elucidated by the apex court, is a figment of imagination, of the complainant," the court observed while holding that the complaint had no *locus* to register the complaint.

If a victim had complained that he had purchased electoral bonds, it would have been an altogether different circumstance, the court pointed out.

Rebellion in BJP intensifies after Yatnal gets show-cause notice

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The rebellion in the BJP's State unit appears to have not only intensified but is also getting wider attention after a show-cause notice was issued to rebel leader Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, contrary to his political rivals' expectation that it would silence the group.

While the rebel group, including Mr. Yatnal, has continued its tirade against party State president B.Y. Vijayendra, it is turning out that this group has sympathisers among some senior leaders, including party MPs. Though none of them has openly defended Mr. Yatnal or spoken against issuing the show-cause notice to him, some leaders are learnt to have started hinting that they are not opposed to the issues raised by Mr. Yatnal.

For amicable resolution

Some of the leaders who have remained neutral are learnt to be airing a view that it is better for the party's central leadership to resolve the issue amicably rather than taking any serious action against Mr. Yatnal, as that may further intensify groupism in the party. A senior leader in the BJP State unit said that considering how the dissidence has intensified, the party central leadership is likely to focus on resolving the problem rather than precipitating it.

Briefing: A delegation of BJP leaders from Karnataka, including Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, Aravind Limbavali, and Kumar Bangarappa, called on Jagadambika Pal, chairperson of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, in Delhi on Tuesday.

While Vijayendra's supporters are demanding stern action against Yatnal, others are pushing for an amicable resolution of faction fight in the party

A few leaders from North Karnataka are also said to be cautious that they do not want to antagonise the Panchamasali Lingayat community to which Mr. Yatnal belongs.

Meanwhile, Mr. Yatnal and his team, who are in Delhi, met the chairperson of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, Jagadambika Pal, on Tuesday and briefed him about their findings on the waqf land issue in the light of their parallel campaign being taken up in Karnataka.

Sources close to the rebel group said they are also trying to meet the party central leadership to air their views.

Demand stern action

Meanwhile, supporters of Mr. Vijayendra have upped their ante and are demanding that the party crack the whip on Mr. Yatnal by expelling him. Several district-level leaders who were in Bengaluru on Tuesday to attend a meeting regarding the strengthening of the party organisation are learnt to have demanded stern action against rebels.

Sand price at GP level fixed at ₹300 a tonne, river sand to cost ₹850

A file photo of sand being extracted from a river in Dakshina Kannada.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has fixed the river sand price at ₹850 a tonne. District-wise tenders will be called for extraction and transportation of river sand. However, for the benefit of local people in villages, the sand price has been fixed at ₹300 a tonne at the gram panchayat level, Minister for Mines and Geology S.S. Mallikarjun has said.

Tenders to be called

In a press statement, he said the price of better or high-quality river sand has been fixed at ₹850 a tonne and tenders would be called for extracting and transporting sand from riverbeds in different districts. The minimum cost for extraction and transportation had been fixed at ₹450 a tonne for river sand. Bidders who quote ₹450 or less would be allotted the tender for extraction and transportation of river sand. If two or more bidders quote the same price, a lottery system would be followed, he said.

He said for the benefit of the people at the GP level, the low price had been fixed. The responsibility of identifying and disposing of available sand in ponds and small tanks at the GP level had been assigned to the respective gram panchayats. People who require sand would extract from the pond and transport it at their own cost.

By district committees

As per the policy, tender for river sand blocks will be processed by the respective district committees. He said grade IV and grade V quality sand would be extracted from designated spots in rivers and major tanks in districts.

As per the new sand extraction policy, a roster system would be followed in tenders and auctioned to SCs, STs, physically challenged persons, and general category people. Tender applications should be submitted in the e-portal and tenders would be auctioned district-wise, the Minister said. The tender process would ensure more revenue to the State, he added.

Achieve revenue targets set for fiscal year, CM tells officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday reviewed the progress of revenue-generating departments of Commercial Taxes, Excise, and Stamps and Registration and said the commercial tax collection stood at ₹53,103 crore as against the target of ₹56,317 crore as on November 2024, achieving the target of 94%.

The Commercial Taxes Department has been given a target of ₹84,475 crore for the current fiscal year. Collection of taxes was low in Mysuru and Malnad regions and officials have been instructed to achieve the target in the coming months of 2024-25.

Noting that the State ranks second in GST collection, Siddaramaiah tells them that efforts should be made to mop up more taxes

The Chief Minister instructed officials to plug any leakage and step up vigilance to reach the target, specifically in Bengaluru.

Noting that the State ranked second in the GST collection, the Chief Minister said efforts should be made to mop up more taxes. GST collection stood at ₹13,722 crore as on November 30, 2024.

In the Excise Department, the collection was recorded at ₹23,600 crore as against the target of ₹38,525 crore, achieving a target of 61.26%. Mr. Siddaramaiah told officials to take steps for filling Group C category vacancies.

Stamps and registration

In the Stamps and Registration Department, he said the collection was ₹15,160.97 crore as against the target of ₹26,000 crore for the fiscal year, achieving the target of 58%.

The Chief Minister told officials of the Revenue Department to eliminate bottlenecks in the e-khata system.

In the Mines and Geology Department, he said the collection was recorded at ₹4,862 crore as against the target of ₹9,000 crore for the fiscal year.

Zameer Ahmed questioned by Lokayukta police in DA case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Housing, Minority Welfare and Waqf B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan was questioned by the Lokayukta police for over two hours in connection with a disproportionate assets (DA) case against him, on Tuesday.

After coming out of the Lokayukta office, Mr. Khan told media persons that the police recorded his statement in the case. "The Lokayukta police had served me a notice to appear before them, honouring which I presented myself. They asked for some specific information regarding the case. I provided all the information they sought. I also recorded my statement in the case," he said.

B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan

The Lokayukta police had served three notices on Mr. Khan earlier. But Mr. Khan failed to appear before the probe agency earlier, sources said. In the fourth notice issued to him, the Lokayukta police had summoned Mr. Khan to appear before them on Tuesday. "This was the final notice they gave... Officials told me I may be called again for questioning if need be. I will return if they call me again. I will cooperate with the probe," he said.

Mr. Khan was raided by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in August 2021, in connection with the I Monetary Advisory (IMA) scam. However, the ED did not file a chargesheet in the case. The ED, however, submitted a report to the then Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on its findings during the raid, which they said provided grounds for a DA case against him. The ACB had registered a DA case against Mr. Khan and the case was later transferred to the Lokayukta police in September 2022 when the ACB was abolished and its powers given back to the Lokayukta police.

Basavaraj Gurikar is president of All-India Primary School Teachers' Federation

Basavaraj Gurikar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Basavaraj Gurikar of Gadag district has been selected as the national president of the All-India Primary School Teachers' Federation.

This is the first time a teacher from the State has secured the top post in the federation, said a press release. Mr. Gurikar has served as president of the Karnataka State Teachers' Association three times and also as the national working president.

Born in Hosahalli in Ron taluk of Gadag district, he has worked for the welfare of teachers for the last four decades.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
No. 4, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Ph: 080 22262263, Email: phq.prisons-kar@gov.in

No.: ಎಡಿಎಂ1/ಕಾಆಯೋ/ಸಿಆರ್–76/2023 Date: 27.11.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Director General, Prisons and Correctional Services, Bengaluru invited the following tenders for supply, installation and maintenance of Video Conference equipments for various Central and District Prisons as under.

S.No.	Tender No. and Date	Approx. Tender value
1.	PCSD/2023-24/IND0053/CALL-2 Dated: 25.11.2024	Rs. 100 Lakhs

The information of Pre-bid meeting, last date and time for tender submission and other details can be obtained at e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For more information, please contact the above office.

Sd/- Director General
Prisons and Correctional Services
Karnataka State

DIPR/CP/AAA/3579/2024-25

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-33/563/2024-25 Date: 03.12.2024

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Civil Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below :

Name of the Work : Providing and fixing Gantry Board, Road Marking, other Road safety items and Potholes filling at Vemgal Industrial Area, Main Road, Kolar Taluk & District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **17.12.2024** upto **4.30 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3605/Zen/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client intends to purchase the property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder from its present owner T.Venkataramu, son Thimmaiah who has represented that he has a clear and marketable title to the same having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. The present owner has further represented to my client that the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances, charges, liens, litigations and/or any third party rights/claims of any nature whatsoever.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that if any person/s, entity, company, firm, institution (corporate or otherwise) has or claims any right, title, interest, pending litigations, mortgage, charge, lien or demand or any other interest of whatsoever nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any portion thereof has any objections or claims of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within **seven (7) days** hereof, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my clients would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities. Any Objections received after the expiryof the period mentioned shall be neither be entertained nor be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the immovable property being agricultural lands measuring an extent of 1acre 36 guntas comprised in Sy.No.101/1 of Harobande Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk and District and bounded on the:

East by : Settlement (Harobande Village)
West by : Lands comprised in Sy.No.20/1 (Gerahalli Village)
North by : Lands comprised in Sy.Nos. 142/4, 141/3B,141/8 & 258 (Harobande Village)
South by : Lands comprised in Sy.No.101/2 (Harobande Village).

VIJAY.K, VIJAY.K AND ASSOCIATES,
ADVOCATES AND LEGAL ADVISORS
#13, 1st Floor, 7th Temple Street, Malleshwaram,
Bangalore - 560 003, Mob : 99800 18455,
E-mail : vijaykupur@yahoo.com
Bangalore, Date :04/12/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client intends to purchase the property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder from its present owners Sri.M.Suresh and others, who have represented that they have a clear and marketable title to the same having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. The present owners have further represented to my client that the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances, charges, liens, litigations and/or any third party rights / claims of any nature whatsoever.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that if any person/s, entity, company, firm, institution (corporate or otherwise) has or claims any right, title, interest, pending litigations,mortgage, charge, lien or demand or any other interest of whatsoever nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any portion thereof has any objections or claims of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents **within seven (7) days** hereof, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my clients would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities. Any Objections received after the expiry of the period mentioned shall be neither be entertained nor be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No – I All the piece and parcel of the immovable property being agricultural land measuringan extent of 30 guntas comprised in Sy.No.276/1 of Kuduvathi Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk and District and bounded on the:

East by : Lands comprised in Sy.No.276/2,
West by : Land comprised in Sy.No.168,
North by : Nandi Durga Border
South by : Road formed in Sy.No.168 followed by lands comprised in Sy.Nos.246, 247 and 248

Item No – II All the piece and parcel of the immovable property being agricultural land measuring an extent of 30 guntas comprised in Sy.No.276/2 of Kuduvathi Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk and District and bounded on the:

East by : Lands comprised in Sy.No.277
West by : Land comprised in Sy.No.276/1
North by : Nandi Durga Border
South by: Road formed in Sy.No. 168 followed by lands comprised in Sy.No.246, 247 and 248.

VIJAY.K, VIJAY.K AND ASSOCIATES,
ADVOCATES AND LEGAL ADVISORS
#13, 1st Floor, 7th Temple Street, Malleshwaram,
Bangalore - 560 003, Mob : 99800 18455,
E-mail : vijaykupur@yahoo.com
Bangalore, Date :04/12/2024

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

7th Year ANNIVERSARY

V.RAJARAMAN (Ex-BHEL)
12.02.1950 - 04.12.2017
FONDLY REMEMBERED BY
Brothers, Sisters, Family Members, Relatives and Friends
94450 05269 / 95000 77094
98409 75264

REMEMBRANCE

35th ANNIVERSARY

S. Vijayalakshmi
Fondly Remembered by
S. SONNY ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants
Chennai - 600 041.
Ph: 044-4205 6080 Cell: 99400 35794

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

‘Sensitising abled population critical to ensure fundamental rights of persons with disabilities’

The initiative aims to crowdsource information regarding the accessibility of various places and empower persons with disabilities to assess public spaces using the app

INTERVIEW

Jacob Kurian

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

‘If all citizens of India should have equal opportunity, we must motivate the abled community, which is 90% of the population. We have to get that 90% to recognize this is not fair.’ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bengaluru-based Association of People with Disability (APD), on International Day of Persons with Disabilities, signed an MoU with the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities to launch a nationwide accessibility audit and APD’s YesToAccess app. The initiative aims to crowdsource information regarding the accessibility of various places and empower persons with disabilities to assess public spaces using the app.

The free-for-all app allows the user to point their phone’s camera at a building or structure, and the app’s trained AI engine will analyse key accessibility features, such as the presence and quality of ramps, availability of railings, accessibility of toilets, tactile pathways, and clear signage for navigation.

The app then generates an accessibility score for the location, which is made publicly available on a map, helping users identify barrier-free spaces with ease.

The Hindu spoke to Jacob Kurian, Honorary Secretary & Trustee, APD before the launch of the audit and the app.

Tell us about the accessibility audit and YesToAccess app.

The Association of Disabled People (APD) is in its 65th year and we’ve been working across the life cycle of people with disabilities. Every time we looked at the impact of our work, there seemed to be one major reason as to why people were dropping out of school, college or the workplace. It was because most of these places were built in an inaccessible manner. At workplaces we found out that about a quarter of them drop out because they’re not able to get to work as our transportation system is not designed considering accessibility.

Former CJI, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud engaging with the YesToAccess app at the India Accessibility Summit, organised by APD, M.S. Ramaiah College of Law and Govt of Karnataka. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Add to that all the digital services where for everything you need OTPs and video KYCs and so on. Increasingly, you cannot live in India without using some digital device and many websites are not accessible. So, we thought about how we could create conditions where people with disability can have a seat at the table. That is how the idea of doing an audit on the accessibility of spaces came up.

Jacob Kurian

We met a donor who wanted to support our work in bringing systemic change. As we researched, we realized that awareness of global accessibility standards is abysmal.

Sometimes it’s unintentional. Bollards were put up on pavements in many places to prevent two-wheeler riders from riding on them, but that also prevents a wheelchair from going through. In Cubbon Park, there’s a place where unless someone lifts you up and puts you on the pavement, you can’t enter that location on your wheelchair. Somebody was thinking about solving one problem but unintentionally created another.

Secondly, we realised that a small group could audit only an abysmally small number of buildings in a year.

We felt that NGOs and people with disability alone cannot solve this problem. Even the government has tried it and has hardly won. If all citizens of India should have equal opportunity, we must motivate the abled community, which is 90% of the population. We have to get that 90% to recognize this is not fair.

We wondered if technology could play the role of an expert auditor. The idea was that if someone like you and I could use an app to take a set of pictures - not necessarily when we are outside to do an audit, but even during a casual walk - then an AI engine would assess it for whether that place is accessible. It’ll give a score, and we will put that score onto a layer of Google map. With more crowdsourced data, the map will grow organically. This way, if you’re a person with a disability, you can find out beforehand how accessible the place you are intending to go is and plan accordingly.

The application of the solution impacts not just the disabled, but also the elderly. We are hoping that college NSS teams, CSR teams, volunteer organizations, the lay person, would use this app to create an accessibility audit, which will then create a tangible public good. APD doesn’t own it. We have created it as a digital public good, anybody can download it for free.

On collaborating with the Central Government

The Central Government is keen on revitalizing the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan. We are collaborating with the government to announce the app. The central government has given accessibility mandates to a variety of places. They’re also funding some accessibility retrofits. They’re going to use the app for two things - one is to audit whether those funds were properly utilised. There’s a certain minimum science to how you create accessible infrastructure. The pictures on the app will help them audit that.

Secondly, they want to showcase that the 20 or 30 most visited spaces in the city are now accessible and thereby motivate others.

In the back end, you can see what audits are being done. You can look at the dashboard, how many places were audited, who has done how many audits, outcomes, pictures, scores, and, very importantly, evidence so that it’s not my opinion versus yours.

The AI engine helps to make it less subjective. It is not a full audit survey. The hope is that over time we will be able to do more, but we start with a priority set of view.

A lot of aspects of our lives are dependent on technology which makes it important to make digital spaces also accessible. Would the audit going forward cover that aspect also?

The YesToAccess campaign has three modules. First is the ‘built environment’ which is what the app is about right now. Then there would be the mobility module, which would look at access in transportation. The third would be the digital module looking at apps and websites and trying to make them accessible.

In India we have The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. The government launched the Accessible India campaign by the government. In November the Supreme Court ruled that accessibility for disabled persons is a human and fundamental right. Despite all these, accessibility is often overlooked.

We have rules in our country which says you can’t drive the other way on a one-way street, or you can’t ride on the pavement, but people do that. Between the statement of intent in terms of regulations and its last mile enforcement, there is a challenge in our country.

Should we make this an enforceable law? It technically is an enforceable law even today because it violates the fundamental right of a person with disability to move and do things as abled people do, and that is in essence discriminatory.

How much change have you seen in people and policymakers’ attitude regarding making spaces more accessible?

I’m optimistic. For the last one year, we have been doing a lot of sensitization programmes on why accessibility is important. In most cases, people are not aware, that’s all. Once they see it, they acknowledge the problem and become supportive. It’s an easily solvable problem at a micro level - for example, it doesn’t cost much to build a ramp in one’s own building. There are little adaptations that are possible, and I haven’t found anybody saying no to it.

Till the app was launched a lot of the work has been about sensitizing people. We’ve been using paper forms, and we have finished 4,000 audits using a very clumsy Google form. The app is slicker, faster, better, much more convenient to use. So, we are optimistic that this will happen. And best of all, the government is relaunching Accessible India campaign. Their resources are certainly a lot bigger than what we can do on our own. Collectively, we can solve.

A tale of life, death, and rebirth comes alive on stage

The play was initially part of a small performance that was later turned into a full-length play

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Scenes from the play *Ondu Vilaya Kathe*. SPECIAL AARANGEMENT

Yuvashree, a young amateur theatre troupe from Bengaluru that was started in 2007, is back with its recent popular play *Ondu Vilaya Kathe*, at Ranga Shankara.

Written and directed by popular Kannada and English writer, director and actor Sharath Parvathavani, the play opened to audience this year in April and this will be its eighth showcase.

The synopsis of the play calls *Ondu Vilaya Kathe* “a story of liberation. A story of death. A story of rebirth. A tale of duality of mind. A tale of difficulty and a tale of repentance.”

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Sharath says the play was initially part of a small performance that was later turned into a play. “Back in 2021, I was asked to direct a small piece for one of the ancillary events at the Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival. I had just read a piece on death during that time and wanted to create something experimental using the Ranga Shankara staircase as levels in the play. I have always been fascinated with death. Coincidentally, when I was exploring such a topic, popular cinema actor Puneeth Rajkumar passed away a day before our show, and it just added more intensity to the play for us and the audience,” he explains

“Early this year, Yuvashree asked me to direct a play for them. I was ready to direct an existing script, but the team urged me to take up something new and interesting. I told them I had this piece, which eventually became a full-fledged play. It was developed into two tracks, just like how we are all in between life and death,“ says Sharath.

Sharath says that converting a small piece into a full-fledged play was tougher than writing the original short play. “To give it a context, have a separate track and not have audience learn how the two tracks connect until the very end, was challenging. It was difficult to talk about the same themes through different contexts,” he adds.

The play is open to children over the age of ten, and Sharath says it is fundamental for children over the age of ten to understand what death is as they are very curious, and it would help them comprehend deaths in their family or surroundings.

Performed by Apeksha Ghalgi, Siddharth Bhat, Vijay Kulkarni, Sujay Channagiri, Akhila R. Rao, Charith Bharadwaj and Sumith Bekal, tickets for *Ondu Vilaya Kathe* are available at the Ranga Shankara box-office and on *BookMyShow*. The show is on Wednesday, at 7.30 p.m.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 4, 1974

Autos off Road in Bangalore

Bangalore, Dec. 3. Autorickshaws in Bangalore were off the road to-day in response to a call given by the Autorickshaw Drivers Union to observe a one-day token strike in support of the demand for fixation of minimum fare of 90 paise instead of the present 45 paise. However, there were stray cases of drivers taking out the vehicles in some localities in the evening.

The drivers held a meeting at the Chicklalbagh in the evening and from there they took out a procession to the Vidhana Soudha. Representatives of the Union led by Mr. S. Suryanarayana Rao, met the Commissioner for Home, who is reported to have told the delegation that a meeting would be held on December 17 to discuss the question of minimum fare, alleged harassment of drivers by the police etc.

Self-sufficiency in Nuclear Reactors

Bangalore, Dec. 3: The country was fast nearing self-sufficiency in respect of nuclear power reactors, Dr. Raja Ramanna, Director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, said here today.

Addressing members of the Bangalore Chapter of the Indian Physics Association at the Central College, he said 80 per cent of the equipment in the Ranapratapsagar and Kalpakkam nuclear power reactors was indigenous. In the Narora station (Uttar Pradesh), which would be a 500 megawatt one, 95 per cent of the equipment would be indigenous.

"Music chose me," says Menuka Paudel

Menuka Paudel the Indian Idol singer who moved Ranbir Kapoor to touch her feet, talks about her journey from rural Nepal, navigating the challenges of blindness, and her spiritual approach to music

Praveen Sudevan

When we met Menuka Paudel, 26, she was sitting in her plush hotel room, a plate of food covered on the table and a glass of juice by her side. She had just finished rehearsing with a Bengaluru-based band led by Rudolph David, former bassist of Thermal and a Quarter. Despite a busy schedule at the 12th edition of the India Inclusion Summit, held in Bengaluru on November 16 and 17, she was hardly tired, her smile unwavering. Music, she says, energises her.

Raised in Jhapa, Nepal, Menuka's early life was steeped in melody. At a hostel for the blind, she discovered music almost by chance. "There were musical instruments – harmonium, tabla," she recalls. "We used to wake up at 4 am and do riyaaz. I started listening to music when I was 5 or 6, following my seniors during bhajans." Thus began a lifelong relationship with music, shaped by devotional songs and the teachings of her first music teacher from Darjeeling.

Straight from the heart Menuka Paudel. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Music was never a choice – it was a calling. "My life is in music," she says. Even as a child, her performances were marked by an unshakable faith. "When I sing, I feel like God is right in front of me. Music chose me." This spiritual connection fuels her artistry, turning every performance into an act of devotion, whether she's singing Asha Bhosle's playful 'Paan Khaye Saiyan Hamarao' or the hauntingly profound Lata Mangeshkar song 'O Paalanhaare' from *Lagaan*.

A path of challenges

Menuka's path has been far from conventional. She participated in Nepal Idol at 19, followed by Sa Re Ga Ma Pa, and most recently, Indian Idol, where she reached the top 10 and became famous. Her Indian Idol journey, however, was fraught with challenges, from learning Hindi to navigating the competitive rigour of reality TV. "Learning Hindi songs was tough but beautiful," she said.

Her perseverance paid off; her rendition of 'O Paalanhaare' moved judge Shreya Ghoshal to tears, and Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor touched her feet in reverence after she sang 'Agar Tum Saath Ho' from his film *Tamaasha*.

> Music is everything to me. It's how I want to make a difference.
> **MENUKA PAUDEL**
> Singer

Her understanding of music has evolved over time. "For example, take the song 'Jaane kya baat hai. Neend nahi aati. Badhi lambi raat hai' (I wonder what it is. I can't sleep. The night feels so long) from the film *Sunny*. As a kid, I didn't know what the song meant. I just heard it and tried to replicate it. Now, I can watch the film to understand the song better. I can sing as that character, which makes a huge difference to the song."

Breaking barriers

"It's not true that a blind person can't be popular," she says, addressing the stereotypes that often accompany disability. Through her appearances on mainstream platforms, she has shown that talent knows no bounds.

Her ability to connect with audiences, whether on a competition stage or during live performances, has made her an inspiring personality – something she is shy to admit.

Menuka recently realised her dream of playback singing with *Salaar* after its composer, Ravi Basrur, saw her perform in Indian Idol. She sang 'Sooraj Hi Chhaon Banke' in the Hindi version of the film. "It was my dream to sing playback," she says. But recording the song was no easy feat.

"There was a bit of Urdu in the song. So I had some trouble with the pronunciation. It took me four to five hours to record it. Then, all the lyrics were changed on the second day, so I had to sing it again. On the third day of recording, Ravi Basrur sir told me to sing as I did in Indian Idol, without any extra pressure and without *harkat* (the intricate and swift movements or embellishments in a musical phrase). So, I recorded the song thrice."

She is pursuing a Bachelor's degree while training in Hindustani and Carnatic music. Her aspirations include more playback opportunities, live performances, and perhaps, one day, working with AR Rahman – a dream she holds close.

But Menuka's ambitions go beyond personal milestones. She also wants to use her music to help others. "Music is everything to me. It's how I want to make a difference."

Singing his way to fame

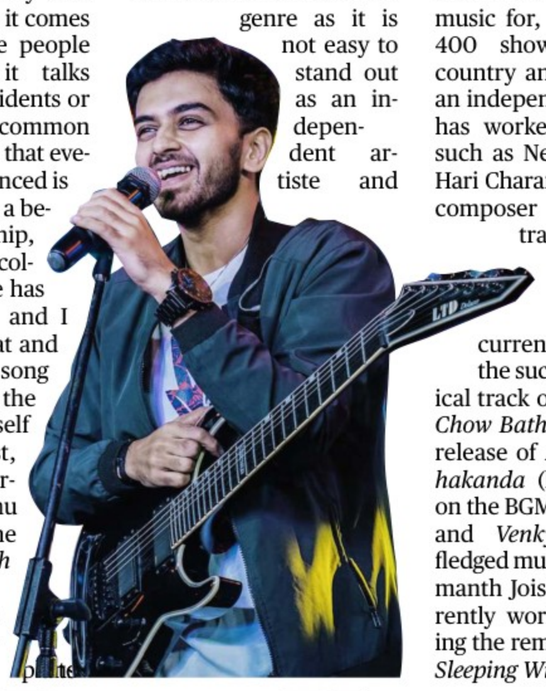
Creating melody Hemanth Jois with actor Ajay and (below) at a stage show. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shilpa Anandraj

Hemanth Jois is an independent singer who is slowly but surely etching his fame as a promising music director in the Kannada film industry. A self-taught guitarist and composer, he has to his credit many video albums released under his own banner – The Jois Project and he is also an active performer of the band Naik and the Jois Project, which was founded by him in 2017.

Hemanth speaks about his latest EP *Sleeping with The Snakes;* its first song 'Paralysed' released in April this year on his YouTube channel, The Jois project, and has gone viral ever since.

The uniqueness of the EP, says Hemanth, is that "it is my first English song. I love rock and it has influenced me all through my musical journey and career. Also when it comes to rock, I believe people connect when it talks about real life incidents or emotions. One common theme or incident that everyone has experienced is betrayal. It can be a betrayal in friendship, love, family or by colleagues. Everyone has experienced this and I wanted to use that and that is how the song came to be," says the 32-year-old self taught guitarist, who credits singer-composer Raghu Dixit for the title *Sleeping with the Snakes.*



There are five songs in this EP and Hemanth plans to release one song every 45 days.

"Raghu Dixit lives down the lane from me and we spend quite a few evenings discussing music. One evening when we were having a serious discussion, he said something like, 'when you grow up, you realise you are sleeping with snakes'. That hit me hard and immediately I told him I would make it the title of my EP and that is how my work commenced," shares Hemanth, who has till date released 26 songs as an independent musician. *Tunturu* was his first for which he won the Best Independent Artist (Kannada International Music Awards KIMA 2017-18), Shankar Nag Youth Icon Award.

Though Hemnath has never has worked with Raghu, he calls him his "inspiration. He has had a huge impact on me when it comes to the Kannada rock genre as it is not easy to stand out as an independent artiste and survive as a full time musician when the music world is dominated by the cinema industry music. Hence, Raghu is an icon as a musician and he has proved that a singer can stand, irrespective of the challenges," shares Hemanth, who as a musician himself, believes, "composing music for films does give an added edge, simply because if the film and the song becomes a hit, then it gives more traction to my own music."

Hemanth, who also started off as an independent musician, talks about the difference between composing for his own independent track and movies. "You work with a free hand when you create music for yourself, but as a film composer, you work within the boundary of what the director, story and film demands or needs. So you may end up creating something that may not be close to your heart. Despite this if the song does well then the complete credit should go to the film director because he knew this vision or music would work," says the musician who hails from the Malnad region.

Statement 8/11 followed by *Aranyakanda, Entha Kathe Maaraya, Thimmana Mottegalu* are some of the films he has composed music for, besides having 400 shows across the country and the States as an independent singer. He has worked with singers such as Neeti Mohan and Hari Charan. He is also the composer of the theme track for PUBG Mobile India Official.

The musician, currently basking in the success of the musical track of the film *Chow Chow Bath* is awaiting the release of Ajay Rao's *Yudhakanda* (he has worked on the BGM and one song), and *Venkya* as a full-fledged music director. Hemanth Jois is also concurrently working on releasing the remaining tracks of *Sleeping With Snakes.*

A paw-some time!

Pet Fed, India's pet festival turns 10 this year. To mark this special occasion, they have announced a major expansion: Pune joins their bandwagon along with the existing cities of New Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

Over the past decade, Pet Fed has established itself as a national phenomenon and has even earned a place in the Limca Book of Records for being the biggest pet carnival in the country.

This year's series of the carnival begins in Bengaluru and "promises to be bigger and better, returning to the classic festival format and welcoming pet lovers across four vibrant cities," says Akshay Gupta, the founder of Pet Fed.

Pet Fed has, over the years, grown into a sprawling three-acre carnival that offers activities, informative workshops, over 100 stalls showcasing pet products and services, elaborates Akshay, an animal lover and entrepreneur, who is an alumnus of Delhi University and a BSc Electronics graduate from Hindu college.

"The aim was to have a platform where pet owners could find everything that they would require for their pet-related needs, from pet food and pet-friendly cars to spreading awareness about pet keeping," adds the 27-year-old CEO.

The two-day event will be held on December 7 and 8 at Jayamahal Palace Grounds, between 11am and 9pm.

Visit www.petfed.org to book tickets and for the event schedule.

Furry fun time Glimpses from previous editions of Pet Fed. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CITYBEATS

Holiday special

ONGOING
This Thanksgiving menu brings alive holiday traditions with a range of dishes such as Hunan xiang jing cumin lamb, Asian hoisin glazed duck, grilled salmon herb and garlic and cherry pistachio. Pair these delicious culinary delights with a crisp Chardonnay or the rich, velvety notes of a Shiraz, both from Jacob's Creek.
Available till December 8 at Suzy Q Queens Road. Call 47250088 for details.

Rangapravesha

DECEMBER 7
Diya Shankar who trained in Bharatanatyam, under Raksha Karthik from the Natanam Institute of Dance, will present her Bharatanatyam rangapravesha this weekend. The dancer is also trained in Carnatic music. An arangetram or rangapravesha marks a significant milestone in a dancer's artistic journey, where they present the tradition and and artistry of the dance to audiences.
At JSS Auditorium, 5pm. Open to all.

Festive cheer

ONGOING
This Thanksgiving menu curated with holiday specials, includes seasonal favourites blended with timeless flavours in contemporary creativity. Look forward to enjoying maple-gazed pork chops, peri peri mac 'n' cheese balls, paprika chicken tarts, spiced molasses cookies and more.
At Daysie - All-Day Casual Bar, Mahatma Gandhi Road, till December 8. Call 47250000 for details.

INBRIEF

Vizhinjam seaport to begin informal operation today

Marking another milestone in the maritime history of the State, the Kerala government will issue the provisional completion certificate for the Vizhinjam International Seaport on Wednesday, marking the beginning of the informal commercial operation of the port. However, the official commissioning of the port will be done either later this month or by the next month, based on the convenience of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Railways warns against performing 'aarti' on trains

South Central Railway (SCR), which is operating several Sabarimala special trains, has appealed to rail users to refrain from lighting camphor on board trains. An official release on Tuesday stated that pilgrims have been observed to be lighting camphor, performing 'aarti' inside the coaches. Carrying inflammable materials and lighting fire in any form in trains is strictly prohibited as such acts may result in fire hazards endangering human lives and railway property.

Police book BRS leader in fresh phone tapping case

A case has been booked against former Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader T. Harish Rao by the Hyderabad Police on Sunday. The officials investigating the case confirmed that former DCP R. Radhakrishna Rao was also named in the case. This follows a complaint lodged by Gadhagoni Chakradhar Goud, a businessman, alleging threats, false cases and unauthorised surveillance of his phone by Mr. Harish and his associates.

Give 6 churches to Orthodox faction, SC directs Jacobites

The court, however, asks group to give undertaking that public facilities in these churches will be open to all members; it also frowned upon Kerala govt. for intervening in the dispute

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Jacobite Syrian faction to hand over the administration of six churches in Ernakulam and Palakkad districts to the Malankara Orthodox Syrian faction in compliance with its judgments and the 1934 constitution of the Church.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyyan, however, asked the Orthodox group to give an undertaking that public facilities in these parish churches, including burial grounds, schools and hospitals, would be open to all members of the community. These facilities must be accessible [to all members of the community] as per the 1934 constitution, but without insistence on any pledge of allegiance to this constitution and also subject to the Supreme Court's directives.

St. Mary's Church, known as Piravom Valiya Palli, is one of the churches caught in the dispute. FILE PHOTO

The top court listed the case after two weeks while voicing hope that both groups would celebrate Christmas in peace and harmony.

The Bench was hearing special leave petitions filed by the Kerala government, the State Police and also members of the Jacobite group against a directive of the Kerala High Court to the district administrations to take possession of the six churches.

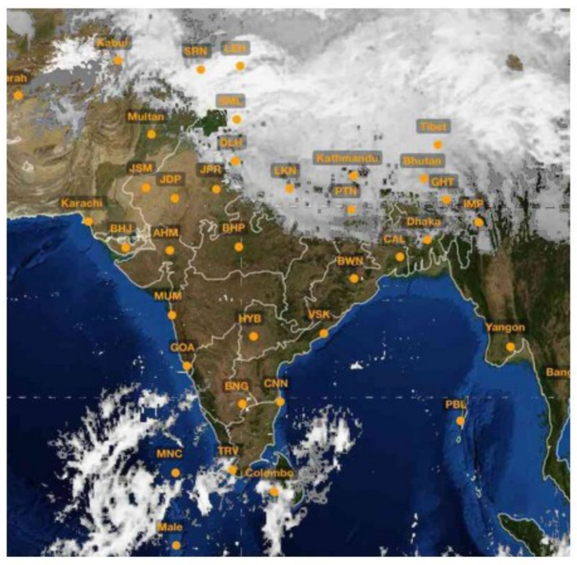
The court said the Jacobite group was undoubtedly in contempt for having wilfully disobeyed two judgments of the Supreme Court in 2017 and 2020.

"We want you to comply with our judgments first," Justice Kant said.

The court frowned upon the State intervening in the dispute over the management of religious affairs of two groups.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, Kerala and Mahe. Squally weather is likely to prevailing over Lakshadweep, adjoining southeast Arabian sea and southern parts of eastcentral Arabian sea

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.7	12.5	Kozhikode	156	30.1	24.3
Ahmedabad	—	31.2	18.6	Kurnool	2	28.4	24.8
Aizawl	—	28.6	16.6	Lucknow	—	29.0	12.0
Allahabad	—	29.4	11.8	Madurai	—	32.8	24.5
Bengaluru	21.2	25.1	20.3	Mangaluru	156.2	27.8	23.5
Bhopal	—	28.8	12.8	Mumbai	—	34.4	24.0
Bhubaneswar	0.6	31.4	19.7	Mysuru	34.8	29.5	20.8
Chandigarh	—	28.0	9.8	New Delhi	—	28.2	10.5
Chennai	—	31.8	26.2	Patna	—	26.5	15.2
Coimbatore	—	31.8	21.4	Port Blair	—	30.8	25.3
Dehradun	—	25.8	9.6	Puducherry	—	31.0	25.6
Gangtok	—	15.4	7.8	Pune	—	32.6	23.6
Goa	—	32.0	27.0	Raipur	—	30.8	20.5
Guwahati	—	28.2	13.4	Ranchi	—	28.6	14.6
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shillong	—	19.2	9.0
Hyderabad	0.5	28.0	22.1	Shimla	—	17.4	9.5
Imphal	—	25.7	12.7	Srinagar	—	12.9	1.8
Jaipur	—	28.9	12.8	Thiruvananthapuram	1	33.2	24.2
Kochi	24	30.0	25.0	Tiruchi	—	31.1	22.6
Kohima	—	21.6	8.0	Vijayawada	—	29.0	24.0
Kolkata	—	28.2	19.2	Visakhapatnam	1	29.1	23.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.17	..37	20	... 238	...125	
Bengaluru	...8	..15	56	 39	58	
Chennai	...8	..22	66	 55	67	
Delhi	.23	217	82	... 296	...297	
Hyderabad	...6	..89	68	 60	...119	
Kolkata	.10	..34	47	... 219	...160	
Lucknow	...7	..37	60	... 312	...329	
Mumbai	.12	102	..2	... 184	...172	
Pune	..—	..83	15	... 150	...129	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..40	35	 78	68	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hajipur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 353 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 23

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

No major headway in Telangana, A.P. meet on bifurcation issues

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The first high-level meeting of the official committees of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh on resolution of bifurcation issues on Monday made no major headway. Chief Secretaries of both States A. Santhi Kumari and Neerabh Kumar Prasad conferred to discuss about the solution to bifurcation issues.

However, deadlock reportedly continued over some issues like reimbursement of expenditure incurred by Telangana on maintenance of common institutions till Hyderabad was the joint capital. The Telangana delegation insisted that it should receive ₹410 crore from the neighbouring State, but Andhra Pradesh maintained that the figures submitted should be reconciled.

West Africa-bound ship with 'PDS rice' seized in Kakinada

The Hindu Bureau
KAKINADA

West-Africa bound cargo ship *Stella L Panama* has been seized with 38,000 metric tonnes of rice at Kakinada Anchorage Port four days after Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan ordered to seize it for alleged illegal export of rice supplied through PDS from Kakinada coast.

On November 29, Mr. Kalyan ordered officials to seize the ship anchored at the port, where he alleged that officials did not cooperate with him to board the ship to inspect the rice loaded in it.

Collector S. Shan Mohan said: "*Stella L Panama* has been seized for inspection. The inspection aims at confirming the total quantity of PDS rice loaded for the export."

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU
Ref: PWD:MD:JE-1TND(29E):2024-25: Dated: 03.12.2024

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Divn. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under K.P.P Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTPP Act Indent No: 15921 (Amount Put Tender is Rs.810.70 Lakhs) as per KW-4 **Under the Head Of Account: 5054-03-101-0-02-132 Major District Roads & Bridges. The Last date for reciept of tender: 19.12.2024 upto 16.00 Hours.** Any Change in dates of events and value of work put to tender and EMD amount etc only can been seen from KPP-portal.

DIPR/MNG/KSMCA/926/24-25 dt.03.12.2024 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority-Karnataka (Constituted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC Government of India), has accorded the environmental clearance for development of commercial project, being constructed by Bangalore Development Authority represented by M/s Embassy Maverick Malls Pvt Ltd, at property bearing city survey number 4595 & 4596 of Indiranagar, survey number 49P, 50P, 51P, 59P, 70P, 71P, 72P, 73P & 74P of Binnamangala village K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, vide order No. SEIAA 119 CON 2024 Dated 30.11.2024. The said copy of environment clearance is available with the MoEF&CC/ SEIAA/KSPCB office and the website of Environment & Ecology department at **http://www.seiaa.kar.nic.in** and **http://environmentclearance.nic.in**

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
No.8, "Samparka Soudha", Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. Telefax : 080-22024000
e-mail : mdkrdcl@gmail.com, cekrdcl@gmail.com Website: http://www.krdcl.in
No. KRDCL/IFB/2024-25/16 Dated: 02-12-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (through KPP Portal)

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) invites tender from agencies having experience in respect of following works as per the requirement of Bengaluru City Traffic Police on item rate tender basis in two cover system as detailed below.

Name of the Work: "Providing Asset Management, Monitoring and Annual Maintenance Contract for IT Software & Hardware for a period of 3 years to Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) under Bengaluru City Road Safety Authority and Traffic Management Project. **Amount put to tender (in Rs.):** 2,54,23,728.81 (exclusive of GST). **Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.):** 3,00,000.00 through KPP portal. **Period of Completion (including monsoon):** 36 months for supply, installation, testing, commissioning, deployment and training & maintenance.

Interested applicants may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and submit the bids and EMD (electronically) through KPP portal only.

The Calendar of events for various activities is as follows: (a) The last date and time for submission of queries is : **16.12.2024 upto 17.30 Hrs.** The applicants may submit their queries through electronic mail: **cekrdcl@gmail.com (b)** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **17.12.2024 at 16.30 Hrs.** in the **office of the Joint Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City Police, No. 5, Traffic Management Centre, 2nd Floor, Infantry Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. (c)** The last date and time for submission of bids is **26.12.2024 upto 17.30 Hrs. (d)** Date and time of opening of Technical bids is : **27.12.2024 at 17.30 Hrs.**

*Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and further changes will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement portal website.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
KRDCL, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/YC/3586/2024-25

Town municipal council Kurugodu
kurugodu Bellari (Dist), Ph:08393-263166
E-mail : ko.kurugodu.tmc@gmail.com Web Site: www.kurugodutown.mrc.gov.in
No: DUDCB/ Tech/Kurugodu/2024-25 Date: 02.12.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Officer, TMC Kurugodu Invites tenders in two cover system using standard tender document for purchasing of vehicle and machinery under SWM 2.o grant Indent No: **DMA/2024-25/IND3981, DMA/2024-25/IND3980, DMA/2024-25/IND3979, DMA/2024-25/IND3978, DMA/2024-25/IND3977, DMA/2024-25/IND3981.** For further details please contact 9620407286, and for bid submission visit **https:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal.

sd/- Chief Officer, TMC,kurugodu
DIPR/Ballari/647/KSMCA/2024-25

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER - 2nd Call
(Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (Project), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
Project-4	BWSSB/EE(P)-4/ AEE(P)-4-1/PB/ 579/2024-25 Dt: 30.11.2024	Rs.43.80 Lakhs / Rs.87,600/-	11-12-2024 upto 3.00 p.m.	12-12-2024 after 3.00 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Project-4).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO3603/24-25

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಟೋಲ್ ನಾಕಾ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: ksdb.dhardiv@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 0836-2747842
ಸಂ.ಕೊಅಮ/ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಧಾ.ವಿ/ತಾಂ.ಪಾ/ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ-2/2024-25/755/756 ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.12.2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ - CALL-2
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ) KW-3&4

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಹಾಗೂ ಗದಗ ಉಪ-ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ 5475-00-115-0-06 (ಉಪ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ-106) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ 04 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಉಪ-ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸೆಸ್ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾಗಿರುವ 02 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕರೆದಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾರಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಐಟಂ ವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರ/ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03-12-2024** ರಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10-12-2024** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11-12-2024** ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.75.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು** ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ **ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.204.63 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು** ಇದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರನ್ ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ/ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ನಿಯಮ /ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ತುಂಬುವ ವಿಧಾನ್ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ದಿನಗಳಂದು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/686/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ/2024-25
ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bangalore - 560 009.
Tel: 080-22341230/35, E-mail : bmicapa@gmail.com
No: BMICAPA/CLU/03/34/2024-25/1255 Date : 02.12.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri Shivashankar A.R has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from"Agriculture" Zone to "Commercial" purpose pertaining to Sy.No:196/5 extent of 00 Acre-18 Guntas of Vadiyandahalli Village, Arakere Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk, under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for Agriculture zone in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1) During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers.
2) By developing the Commercial Projects in the above said lands, the poor and middle class people will get jobs.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Commercial developments in the above said land.
4) By developing the Commercial areas, Government will get income in the form of various Taxes.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

DIPR/CP/3597/Zen/2024-25 **Sd/-**
Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore.

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ1.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:35:2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29-11-2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2024-25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ವಿಶೇಷ ಅನುದಾನ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ) - 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2024-25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ - 05 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಂ. 2.0 ಅನುದಾನ - 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2024-25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) - 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 06 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91-8046010000 +91-8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.01, 02, 04 ರಿಂದ 06, 08 ರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ :- ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 02-12-2024 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 09-12-2024 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 09-12-2024 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 11-12-2024 ಸಮಯ : 11.00

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.03ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ : ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ: 07ರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ:- ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 02-12-2024 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 19-12-2024 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 19-12-2024 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 21-12-2024 ಸಮಯ : 11.00

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/532/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024-25
ಸಹಿ/-ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division, PU Building, 9th Floor, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 001.
No: EE/SN/TEND/16/2024-25 Date: 03-12-2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Only Through GOK KPP Portal) (Two Cover Tender-KW2)

The Executive Engineer, (Shanthinagar Division), BBMP, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible appropriate class tenderers registered in BBMP/CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES / any State or Central Government Organisations for the works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Emergency works in preparation of Ground for Celebration of Republic Day 26-01-2025 at Manikshaw Parade Ground Bangalore in Ward No.167 (Old-111), Ashokanagara for the year 2024-25. **Approx. value of work:** Rs.23.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.57,500/-. **Cost of tender form (Non-refundable) inclusive of VAT:** As per KPP portal. **Category:** Others.

Calendar of Events: 1) RFP documents available from GOK KPP portal website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from **06.12.2024 onwards.** 2) Pre-bid meeting will be held on **12.12.2024 at 15.30 hrs.** at Office of the Executive Engineer, 9th Floor, PU Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 001.(3) Last date for submission of tender documents is **16.12.2024 upto 16:00 hrs.** 4) Date of opening of Technical bids is **17.12.2024 at 16:30 hrs.**

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit KPP portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Shanthinagar Division, BBMP

KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 001.
Ph: 080- 25586550/25586399 Fax: 080-25587020, Email: info@ksicsilk.com
REF: NO. KSIC/PR/RNTDR/SMART-CLASSROOM/2024-25 Dt: 02/12/2024

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SMART CLASSROOM SOLUTIONS - 40 NOS. AT VARIOUS GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AT PIRIYAPATNA TALUK OF KARNATAKA UNDER CSR INITIATIVE OF KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED, BENGALURU

The Managing Director, Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation Limited invites proposal in two cover system for Supply, installation and maintenance of **Smart Classroom Solutions** - 40 Nos. at various Government Schools at Piriyapatna Taluk, of Karnataka under CSR initiative through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) as per the provisions of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act & Rules 2000. Prospective suppliers willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned e-procurement portal.

1. Pre-Bid Meeting at KSIC, Head Office: **10/12/2024, 11.00 Hrs.** 2. Last date & Time for submission of Queries: **19/12/2024 11.00 Hrs.** 3. Last date & Time for submission of Tender: **19/12/2024 17.00 Hrs.** 4. Date & Time of opening of the technical bid: **21/12/2024 11.00 Hrs.** 5. Tentative date & time of opening of Financial bid: To be intimated to the qualified Tenderers. 6) EMD Amount: **Rs. 1,80,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Eighty Thousand Only)** 7) Address for communication: Office of The Managing Director, Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation Limited, III & IV Floor, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.

Prospective Service Providers willing to participate in this tender can down load the bid documents with visiting the web site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
General Manager (Proc), KSIC
& Tender Inviting Authority
DIPR/CP/3562/MAA/2024-25

Preparing for worse

Extreme weather events will increase in frequency in the coming years

It is not uncommon for the southern peninsula to experience heavy or very heavy rainfall during the northeast monsoon, which is also important for Sri Lanka and Maldives. But when Cyclone Fengal crossed the coast, close to Puducherry, on the night of November 30, neither Tamil Nadu nor Puducherry expected the magnitude of devastation that occurred. In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said nearly seven million families and 15 million individuals have been affected. Sixteen people, including four in Puducherry, lost their lives. A landslip in Tiruvannamalai claimed seven lives including five children. Unusually heavy rainfall (40 cm-50 cm) was recorded in many places in Puducherry and the northern and northwestern parts of Tamil Nadu on a single day. An initial estimate puts over 2.21 lakh hectares of farmland including 10,000 hectares in Puducherry to be under water. The cyclonic storm later weakened and crossed coastal Karnataka, adjoining east central Arabian Sea. Though many southern parts received rain, Puducherry and several districts in Tamil Nadu bore the brunt. What worsened the plight of people in some districts was the flood in the otherwise-dry South Pennai river; on Monday, it had a flow of 2.4 lakh cusecs. Mr. Stalin has sought an immediate release of ₹2,000 crore from the Centre. The Puducherry Chief Minister, N. Rangasamy, has announced assistance of ₹210 crore.

It is time that the authorities concerned prepared themselves to face extreme weather events, given the rising frequency of very high rainfall. Last year, Kayalpattinam in Thoothukudi received 95 cm, whereas, this time, northern and northwestern districts faced a similar experience. A 2022 monograph by the India Meteorological Department concluded that, on an average, four depressions or cyclonic storms could be expected to affect the southern peninsula every season. The authorities should intensify their concrete and tangible long-term steps beyond the routine ways of providing relief and rehabilitation. Even though Chennai was not hit badly this time, the State government must make public the report of the Advisory Committee for Mitigation and Management of Flood Risk in the Chennai Metropolitan Area, led by former civil servant V. Thiruppugazh. Other measures such as a strengthening of bunds, regular removal of silt from water courses and a relentless drive against encroachment of water bodies must be carried out. Only such steps will be purposeful to the people; taking pride about age-old irrigation management is not enough.

Power of pardon

Political interference can corrupt the working of the criminal justice system

Outgoing U.S. President Joe Biden has signed a presidential pardon for his son Hunter, for any federal crimes that he "committed or may have committed or taken part in" between January 1, 2014, and December 1, 2024. The younger Biden was convicted earlier this year on federal gun and drug charges and pleaded guilty to tax charges in California. Addressing the cases against his son, Mr. Biden said that unless there were aggravating circumstances, "people are almost never brought to trial on felony charges solely for how they filled out a gun form". He also noted regarding the tax evasion allegations that late payment of taxes owing to "serious addictions", with subsequent full payment of all taxes, interest, and penalties were typically given non-criminal resolutions, yet it was "clear that Hunter was treated differently". On the one hand, there have been legitimate questions raised about the nature of the pardon – "full and unconditional" – that goes well beyond the gun and tax charges. Most likely, the vagueness of the language is deliberate to allow Hunter Biden to evade prosecutions that the incoming Trump administration might seek to foist upon him, possibly relating to charges of unlawful lobbying, corruption-related payments and similar crimes linked to his foreign business activities. Indeed, Donald Trump has already been impeached in Congress for attempting to pressure, for the sake of political gain, the Ukraine President into conducting investigations against Hunter Biden.

On the other hand, U.S. presidential pardons are hardly uncommon, with even Mr. Trump handing out 143 during his first term – including to Republican Party lobbyist Steve Bannon, the father of Mr. Trump's son-in-law, Charles Kushner, and controversial figures such as Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, and former George W. Bush aide Lewis "Scooter" Libby. Presidential pardons to family members are not unprecedented either – Bill Clinton pardoning his half-brother Roger, convicted on drug-related charges. Yet, the larger question that Mr. Biden's latest pardon begs is whether justice can be served fairly in a political ecosystem of bitter polarisation, the kind that is presently found in the U.S. When Mr. Biden said that he believed that "raw politics has infected this process" it was a reflection upon the increasing weaponisation of law enforcement authority to score political points – ironically, a charge that Mr. Trump levels against the Department of Justice under Mr. Biden. While there is no reason to assume that Presidents will not continue to issue pardons to their allies, leaders on both sides of the aisle would do well to show restraint and prevent political interference from corrupting the working of the justice system.

A run-through, on the Editorial and Opinion pages, of the business at the COP29 summit, in Azerbaijan

Reflections on Baku's 'NCQG outcome'

Ritu Mathur

Director, Energy Assessment and Modelling, TERI

Sanchit Saran Agarwal

Associate Fellow, Energy Assessment and Modelling, TERI

The urgency of climate change has never been more evident. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has highlighted the need for significantly stronger commitments to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Current policies, if continued globally, are expected to lead to a temperature rise of up to 3.1°C. The increasingly visible impacts of climate change across geographies, apart from the growing body of scientific evidence, serve as a constant reminder of the need to accelerate climate action. Cleaner fuels and technological solutions are emerging across sectors and could be increasingly accessed and deployed with adequate focus on the means of implementation.

Against this backdrop with COP 29 (in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024) branded as the "Finance COP", the hope was to see an ambitious outcome (specifically related to the NCQG or New Collective Quantified Goal) which strongly supported this understanding.

Financing needs of the developing world

Finance is a critical component in accelerating the adoption of cleaner alternatives, especially in developing countries. While some of the renewable technologies pay off in the long run due to lower fuel and operational costs, the upfront costs of some of these technologies are much higher than the current options requiring government support to ensure affordability at the consumer end. Other green technologies may still be evolving and are associated with risks of failure that front-runners may need to bear. Given the pressure on government resources that need to be prioritised towards development activities, additional finance must be up-scaled urgently within this decade if transformational changes are to be expected in the adoption of clean and efficient alternatives in developing countries, as access to modern energy and infrastructure improves.

India's expenditure on green energy schemes encompass a wide range of initiatives aimed at expanding renewable energy infrastructure, promoting energy efficiency and clean fuel and technology innovations as part of its commitment to global climate goals. MNRE received its highest ever allocation of ₹19,100 crore in the Budget 2024-25, apart from about ₹40 crore being allocated for enhancing energy efficiency. In the transport sector, a subsidy of ₹5,790 crore has been provided to electric vehicle manufacturers under phase-II of Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) Electric vehicles (FAME) scheme.

> It appears to have bypassed the principles of equitable burden sharing and climate justice, having failed to have recognised the financial needs of the global south

Another aspect of finance required for the transition relates to the source and type of finance. There are growing concerns regarding fiscal debt, which forms the basis of the ask, for part of the financial support from developed countries to be in the form of public grants rather than loans.

The pace and the scale of transitions are also affected by the higher cost of capital in developing countries. Financial flows from developed countries must ideally aim to strengthen fiscal capacities and enable the unlocking of financial markets in developing countries to support and accelerate their climate action. The use of debt instruments to access finance does not work well for developing countries since their high debt burdens limit their ability to successfully incentivise domestic private capital for climate action. It is well recognised that developing countries attract much higher lending rates as compared to developed countries and much of the global financial flows are restricted within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. Therefore, ensuring the flow of climate finance to developing countries at affordable lending rates is important.

Role of the NCQG

At Cancun, in 2010, developed countries had pledged to provide $100 billion annually upto 2020. Further, at COP21 in Paris, the parties decided to establish an NCQG prior to 2025, with the Cancun commitment as the base point. The rationale for establishing the NCQG was pressing. The existing climate pledges have generally been criticised for their lack of specificity and accountability.

Therefore, the NCQG was intended to create a framework for shared climate goals, to establish clear and quantified objectives that nations could aim to achieve, with transparency and accountability at the forefront. At COP26 at Glasgow in 2021, an ad hoc work programme for NCQG discussions was established to run from 2022-24, culminating towards the discussions at COP29.

The Second Needs Determination Report by the Standing Committee on Finance under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) estimated that between $5 trillion to $7 trillion would be needed by 2030 to meet half the needs of 98 countries. Developing countries had put forward a conservative ask of $1.3 trillion annually at COP 29 (largely from public sources to enable leveraging the rest through private finance).

However, the developed world has in the NCQG agreed to provide an abysmal figure of $300 billion annually till 2035. This quantum is not only miniscule but hardly represents any major change in real flows – probably a target that could be achieved even with current or minimally additional efforts, if we account for inflation. Further, the mobilisation of funds is expected through all sources of finance including private capital. Undoubtedly, therefore, there is disappointment with the NCQG outcome, both on the quantum and structure of finance since it does not support the narrative of transformative action. While the decision to triple the flow of public resources through various operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund from the 2023 level by 2035 is a positive aspect, it could also see rather slow progress in the next few years (and not aligned to the narrative of the urgency in climate action).

The road ahead

COP29 saw the finance commitment step up from the earlier commitment of $100 billion a year to $300 billion a year. While this is a step in the correct direction, it is clearly not as ambitious as expected given that climate change is clearly recognised as one of the greatest threats and challenges of our time. Overall, the NCQG outcome is rather disappointing and does not seem to have aligned well with the very core of why the goal was set up in the first place. It clearly bypasses the principles of equitable burden sharing and climate justice as it fails to recognise the financial needs of the global south.

The way forward is to keep the talks ongoing. Climate change has no geographical boundaries. Thus, it is imperative that the international community cooperates towards the global good, keeping climate justice at the core and respecting the principles of the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR and RC). Developing countries must stick together and ensure that any transition is just and fair in the real sense.

Rethinking 'representation' for a meaningful COP30

Gaurav Daga

Associate Vice-President at Guidance, Industries Department, Government of Tamil Nadu

Frustration over the slow progress made during COP29 negotiations in Baku is hardly new. History has repeatedly shown us that the politics of climate change and the forces of nature rarely align. Adding to this challenge is the absence of a unified global authority to address the urgency of the issue. There is no world government or state to act on behalf of the planet. Compounding this challenge is the lack of a universal metric system capable of reconciling the diverse political, economic, and social interests of nation-states. While the jury is still out on whether COP29 was a "disappointment", "failure", or "disaster", critics have often pointed out that 'business as usual' does not work. As Brazil prepares to host COP30 in Belém next year, here is an alternative suggestion on the concept of 'representation' for them.

This innovative methodology was pioneered by Bruno Latour, Emeritus Professor at Sciences Po, and Laurence Tubiana, France's Climate Change Ambassador and Special Representative for the 2015 COP21 in Paris. In the lead-up to COP21, in May 2015, there was a week-long public event, hosted by Sciences Po, called the 'Theatre of Negotiations' at Nanterre-Amandiers on the outskirts of Paris. This experiment brought together 200 students from 143 universities worldwide to role play and reimagine a life-sized COP. The goal of this bold pedagogical initiative was to transform the traditional framework of climate negotiations. At its core was a radical rethinking of 'representation'.

As Irish author Sally Rooney writes, "When American colonists famously rebelled against the practice of 'taxation without representation,' [how] is environmental devastation without representation any different? Even if carbon emissions were thoroughly democratically determined – which they are not – why should voters in the world's richest countries have the right to poison the air, sea, soil, and rivers for the entire population of Earth?" People living on Polynesian islands or in Africa have no right to vote in American or European elections. Yet, they often bear the brunt of the resulting environmental damage.

> Future climate change conferences can achieve meaningful outcomes only if there is honest representation, actionable commitments, and a transparency of intentions

Granting equal rights

In the approach to representation, humans and non-humans – such as the atmosphere, oceans, and soil – were granted equal rights in negotiations. The idea was to give voice and agency to these non-human entities, allowing them to express their stakes in climate negotiations. Unlike conventional COP meetings, this assembly did not defer to the authority of science or nature, as these too were subjects of negotiation. The aim was to simulate a truly inclusive and representative process.

The theatre setting at Nanterre-Amandiers encouraged dynamic and creative reinterpretations of negotiation. Delegates dramatised and de-dramatised issues, explored alternative spatial-temporal perspectives, and allowed non-speaking entities to 'represent' or 'speak' through proxies. This flexibility opened new avenues for addressing climate challenges, from reframing territorial sovereignty to dramatising the interdependence of ecosystems and nations. For example, the 'Ocean' imposed conditions on the 'United States,' while the 'Atmosphere' directly addressed 'China' regarding greenhouse gas emissions. These novel interactions forced participants to reconsider the boundaries of sovereignty and territorial responsibility. This writer, who was a part of the Philippines delegation, represented a civil society organisation, voicing the concerns of indigenous, rural, and coastal communities. Each delegation comprised a diverse mix of actors – state and non-state representatives, scientists, business leaders, and civil society members – thus ensuring a broad range of perspectives.

The week-long simulation yielded profound insights. For delegates, it underscored the critical need for clear communication of interests, values, and territorial concerns. For organisers, it highlighted the logistical and resource mobilisation challenges required to facilitate a process of this scale. For students, it revealed alternative pathways for advancing the climate agenda, recognising the limitations of existing negotiation frameworks. As simulators, we achieved our goal of creating a dynamic, inclusive, and scientifically informed pedagogical tool for climate action.

One could argue that the prevailing global governance system does not allow for such 'representation', or critique it from an anthropocentric point of view. While there are gaps in the existing legal-cum-institutional framework to govern and/or implement rights, the recurrent tendency to give representation of non-humans via courts (in the case of India, Pakistan), parliament (Ecuador, New Zealand) or other institutions (Canada) is to only enlarge its legal and political agency. Such tendency stems from the fact that non-humans are 'interest bearers' having moral standing and deserving political and legal representation.

There needs to be transparency

So, if future COPs are to achieve meaningful outcomes, honest representation and actionable commitments must be paired with a transparency of intentions. Hosting COPs in economies which are heavily reliant on oil, sends mixed signals, particularly when the host nation simultaneously promotes investment in state-run oil and gas enterprises. Such contradictions erode trust and undermine genuine progress.

It would be a significant step forward if COP30, held in Belém - the heart of the Amazon, gave representation to the 'Amazon' as an entity, exploring what possibilities this opens up. Bridging the gap between ambition and action requires not just new negotiation methods but also a willingness to align policies with the values we collectively champion. Let us hope we are not sleepwalking through the Anthropocene.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Logjam ends

The success of a democracy lies in constructive discussion, engaging debates and fine questioning in Parliament. For a long time, Parliament sessions have been an arena for political vendetta, frequent walkouts and a muzzling of voices, all of which call for accountability. In this regard, the recent agreement at a meeting between the government and the Opposition in the chamber of the Speaker is a small step in the right direction (Front page, December 3).

R. Srivatsan,
Chennai

It is a blot on democracy that the temple of democracy is not being allowed to function. If passing Bills without meaningful discussion and debates on sensitive issues is not healthy, equally, it is unacceptable to be having frequent disruptions and misconduct.

S. Seshadri,
Chennai

I would feel bad if there is no discussion on Manipur, one of the most burning topics of the day. Better sense should prevail among parliamentarians in all parties to discuss the various issues concerning the people of India. Why waste time and money on trivial matters, that too raised by the forces inimical to India?

Govardhana Myneedu,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

It is a positive denouement that better counsel prevailed over both the government and the Opposition. Parliamentary forums are not meant for fights between Kilkenny cats. There should be an end to scoring over the other on the basis of lung power.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

Presidential pardon

United States President Joe Biden might have had his own excuses, justifications and reasons for pardoning his son, Hunter Biden ('World' page, December 3). However, Mr. Biden's act reminds us of the maxim, "Blood is thicker than water". How President-elect Donald Trump might deal with the Hunter Biden episode is another matter.

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

Local action amidst global inertia

After hours of intense negotiations, the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) ended with a climate finance goal where developed countries are to provide $300 billion annually by 2035. However, this is far from what the developing countries need, and once again brings global climate gridlock into the spotlight.

Ramya Natarajan

Research scientist at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy, a research-based think tank

Jai Asundi

Executive director at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy

Reaching a consensus

The notion that developed countries should finance climate action in developing nations while also ramping up their own mitigation efforts (such as taking the lead in phasing out fossil fuels and reaching net zero emissions faster) is accepted in principle, but has proven contentious to implement across COPs. The developed world continues to use fossil fuels to meet most of its demands and has no plans of reaching net zero before mid-century. The deadlock has remained a recurring theme at climate negotiations, and COP29 was unsurprisingly no exception. The powerful fossil fuel lobby, especially the oil and gas lobby; the developed world's heavy reliance on fossil fuels; the re-election of climate change deniers; and the differential impacts of climate change across the globe (with the developing world more likely to be impacted than others) are all challenges that hinder reaching a consensus.

Global negotiations are not useless. On the contrary, they are extremely important, even if the victories are few and far between. For instance, the Montreal Protocol, which came into force in 1989, has successfully helped protect the ozone layer and eliminate certain chemicals used in refrigeration (chlorofluorocarbons), a significant contributor to the depletion of the ozone layer. Similarly, the Kyoto Protocol, the first global accord on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which came into force in 2005; the 2015 Paris Agreement, a consensus on limiting global warming to below 2°C with revised national targets every five years; and the 2021 Glasgow Climate Pact, which introduced a loss and damage fund and in which nations declared their respective net-zero dates, are some COPs to celebrate.

However, unlike the melting of glaciers, the pace of action has been slow. Studies indicate that the 1.5°C target will be breached within a few years, with one study even suggesting that it has already been exceeded. Scientific evidence warns that crossing this threshold will lead to severe consequences in terms of natural disasters and heat stress, which are already apparent across the world. In some instances, the changes expected are unknown and could be catastrophic. Further, studies also point to the fact that the earth's climate will continue to evolve even after global net zero is reached, but the longer we take to get there, the more significant the impact of climate change will be.

India's efforts

Whether the goal is to limit global temperature rise to 1.5-2°C or condemn political aggressors for starting wars, the rate at which action is needed is exponential, but the rate at which it is realistically possible is incremental at best. How then do we reconcile these different scales (exponential versus incremental rates) of action? Our answer is to focus efforts on national and sub-national-level action. In India, several policies and finance have already been put in place towards clean energy transition, assuming that international climate finance contribution will be minimal. Being a developing country with several challenges, India has largely followed the co-benefits approach in addressing climate change. For instance, the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana provides households with subsidies to install rooftop solar panels, thereby also addressing energy poverty and access. The PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) initiative aims to promote the adoption of zero-emission vehicles, including two-wheelers, three-wheelers, ambulances, and trucks, offering purchase subsidies and supporting essential charging infrastructure to accelerate the transition to clean air and clean transportation. The Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme, soon to be replaced by the Indian Carbon Market, helps mobilise investments needed to improve energy efficiency and emissions reduction in industries. It is important to note that India has been working hard on reducing its emissions intensity (CO_2 per unit of GDP) as per its commitment to the Paris Agreement. Further, in addition to strategies for emissions mitigation, State Action Plans on Climate Change support adaptation strategies tailored to specific vulnerabilities of States, with a focus on agriculture, forestry, water resources, and disaster risk reduction.

While global consensus and funding remain elusive, local and national actions are making tangible progress. The hullabaloo around COPs from "non-parties" is less crucial than the need to drive action on the ground. India deserves praise for already taking steps in the right direction. Moving forward, sustained efforts in emissions mitigation, mindful consumption aligned with Mission LiFE, a greater emphasis on developing resilient infrastructure and communities, and implementing effective heat action plans to address extreme heat will be essential.

While global consensus and funding remain elusive, local and national actions are making tangible progress

Takeaways from COP29

While there were disappointments, there was much cause for celebration too

Sumant Sinha

Two major global events took place last month: the G20 Summit in Brazil and the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Baku, Azerbaijan. Catalysing finance to address climate change was a central theme at both events. The deal reached in Baku, though hard-won, falls short of expectations.

To be fair, the expectations for climate finance were never easy to meet. Assessments had shown that developing countries need $1.3 trillion per year through 2035 to build infrastructure for adapting to climate change; investing in clean energy, land use, and urban development to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and recovering from disasters. This amount was to come from the 24 high-income countries listed in Annex I of the UNFCCC. Given the outlook of slow economic growth, green investments required in their own territories, and the likelihood of the U.S., which accounts for half of cumulative federal spending, pulling back, there was little appetite for a significant commitment.

The biggest disappointment, however, is that even the small commitment made – $300 billion per year – does not come entirely from public finance, but from sources including Multilateral Development Banks, carbon markets, and private finance. It is recognised that private finance tends to flow to economies where returns are commercially attractive, and it can easily shift back to advanced economies when conditions change. This creates uncertainty about whether emerging economies will see much benefit. Even larger economies like India are unlikely to get adequate resources for priorities such as adaptation.

That said, there were significant victories as well. The set of agreements on carbon markets concluded a decade of negotiations. While bilateral carbon credit deals between countries had been taking place under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, COP29 clarified the procedures for authorising these credits, their transferability between registries, and the standards needed to ensure their environmental integrity. This prevents credits from being revoked and investment getting stranded. A bigger win was the move towards implementing a global carbon market under Article 6.4, with several procedural rules agreed upon. The swift adoption of these rules by individual countries is crucial to launching this market, which will help direct capital towards the most efficient emission reduction projects worldwide. India is likely to be a major beneficiary in this regard.

Other positive outcomes included new emission reduction pledges from the European Union, Canada, and other regions. Many nations committed to propose steeper 2035 targets in their revised Nationally Determined Contributions than their current commitments. The U.K. and Brazil have announced their updated targets, while Norway is consulting on its own. Mexico, under the leadership of climate scientist Claudia Sheinbaum, became the latest major economy to announce a goal to reach net zero by 2050. At the G20 Summit, Indonesian President Probowo Subianto unveiled an ambitious plan to retire all coal and fossil fuel-fired plants by 2040. This is significant, as Indonesia is the largest exporter and third-largest consumer of coal globally. It also highlights that the focus on coal is back – a challenge that India staved off in previous COPs in order to ensure that the focus remained on all fossil fuels. The lack of progress on the "phase-out" of all fossil fuels at both COP29 and the G20 Summit is a cause for concern.

Should we acknowledge that the battle to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C has likely been lost, and adopt a more realistic target? A study released before COP29 indicated that the world was already 1.49°C warmer than pre-industrial levels by the end of 2023. Another suggests that there are still pathways to reverse temperature rise within the 1.5°C limit, even with a temporary overshoot. But this would require the removal of several hundred gigatonnes of carbon using untested carbon removal technologies. At present, large-scale investment in these technologies is not being seriously discussed. Despite this, the 1.5°C goal remains a key leverage point for developing countries, which use it to push for more financial support, and for large economies to take more aggressive steps to cut emissions. There are pros and cons to abandoning the 1.5°C target. It deserves serious thought.

Sumant Sinha is the founder, Chairman and CEO of ReNew, and was recognised as global climate leader in 2024 TIME100 Climate list

Unpredictable rainfall makes farming in Marathwada even harder

In the last two decades, annual rainfall over Marathwada has been stable but the timing and intensity of rains have become erratic

DATA POINT

Ishita Jalan
Lakshmikantha N.R.

In Maharashtra's Jalna district, Dada Rao Ghatode, a farmer from Babultara village, owns eight acres of land where he grows soybean, cotton, and pigeon pea (tur) during the kharif season (July to October). This season, he expected at least ₹80,000 in return from four acres of soybean. However, a single day of heavy rains in September ruined nearly 80% of his crop.

This was not an isolated incident. Across Marathwada, farmers are grappling with unpredictable changes in rainfall distribution, which are threatening their livelihoods. Jalna, along with all other districts in Marathwada, has experienced a sharp increase in extreme rainfall events, disrupting traditional farming practices and water management systems.

Rise in extreme rainfall events

Through the last two decades, the distribution of rainfall in Jalna has changed significantly, according to our analysis of daily gridded rainfall data from the India Meteorological Department. The region's total annual rainfall has been relatively stable but the timing and intensity of the rains have become erratic. Already infamous for its droughts, Marathwada now oscillates between periods of little water and those of too much, which also cause severe waterlogging during the kharif season.

Traditionally, farmers grow water-intensive crops such as paddy, maize, pulses, soybean, and groundnut during the kharif cropping season, and expect good yields. But with an increasingly unstable monsoon, the farmers have had to fall back more and more on rabi season (November to April) crops such as sorghum, chana, and wheat, which have lower market prices. Even though most farmers own medium to large landholdings, they are not prospering.

Data from 2001 to 2023 indicated that rains in July, August, and September accounted for 70% of Jalna's annual rainfall, and that the monsoon arrived late in July and August in most of these years (**Chart 1**). Further, the amount of rain in July and August fell short as much as 70% of the time, while there was a 50% chance of downpours deviating from normal patterns in September.

The greater cause for alarm may be the number of rainy days: the frequency of those with more than 3 mm of rain dropped by 30% in August, a critical period for crop growth. September had 18% more rainy days, meaning the land was water-logged just as the crops approached harvest **(Chart 2 and 3).**

These patterns are disrupting farming cycles and putting farmers who depend on kharif-season crops at even more risk. Extreme rainfall events – defined as a day with rain falling in the 99th percentile by quantity – have not only become more frequent but also more intense. The intensity on these days increased from 59 mm/day in 1951-2000 to 70 mm/day in 2001-2023. There are similar trends across central India, where studies have recorded a threefold increase in the frequency of extreme precipitation events.

Black soil and water-logging

Farmers, researchers, and policymakers often discuss water scarcity in relation to the impact of climate change on agriculture, leaving the challenges of excess water to still be understudied. The Marathwada region's black soil can hold a large amount of water before having to discharge it, and is thus prone to waterlogging.

When this soil type becomes saturated with water, it restricts drainage and prevents water from seeping into aquifers, resulting in flooding even with normal rainfall. For farmers, waterlogging is equal to disaster because it deprives the crops of oxygen, which leads to rotting, wilting, and increased susceptibility to pests and diseases.

The hydrogeology of Marathwada further complicates this situation. Although farm ponds and wells fill quickly after the rains, the underlying basalt rocks are not conducive to long-term water storage. In other words, farmers can't rely on these resources for irrigation throughout the year. The result is a continuous cycle of surplus water in the monsoon and scarcity in the dry months – both of which are bad for farming.

Evolving water management

The changes in rainfall distribution in Jalna reveal a pressing need for new agricultural water management strategies. Prevailing water management practices in Marathwada are based on storing excess water in farm ponds. These ponds do provide some relief, but they don't prevent waterlogging or retain water beyond a single season. This limits their usefulness.

For conventional methods to manage watersheds, experts use historical rainfall data to determine storage capacity. But with the monsoons becoming less predictable, Jalna and other similar areas need watershed structures that can withstand high runoff volumes from extreme rain events. One sustainable approach would be to focus on enhancing the region's drainage networks and improving surface water storage.

Transitioning from farm ponds that depend on groundwater to surface runoff capture systems could also reduce the pressure on aquifers and prevent groundwater depletion.

Additionally, shifting to more water-tolerant varieties of crops can allow the water to percolate through the soil more and help sustain the landscape even when it is inundated.

This combination of improved drainage infrastructure, surface water storage facilities, and resilient land use can foster a balanced water management system capable of withstanding the disruptive weather changes in Marathwada.

Change in rainfall patterns

Data for the charts were sourced from the daily gridded rainfall data of the India Meteorological Department

Chart 1 A long period average was calculated for a period from 1961 to 2010, and each category of rainfall was estimated for that month for the last 22 years (as per the IMD method)

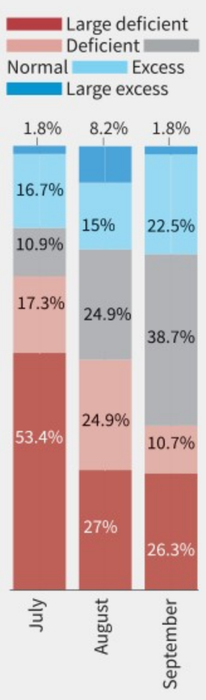


Chart 2: The charts show the number of rainy days for the month of August. The frequency of those days with more than 3 mm of rain dropped by 30% in August, a critical period for crop growth

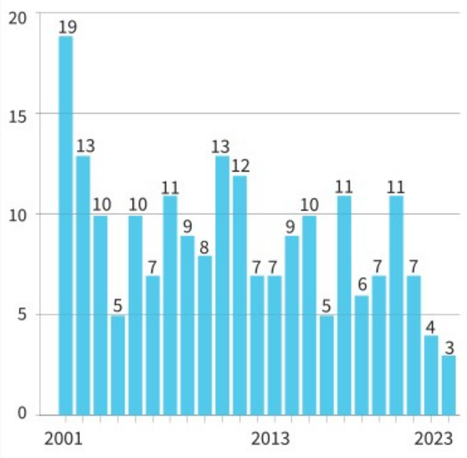
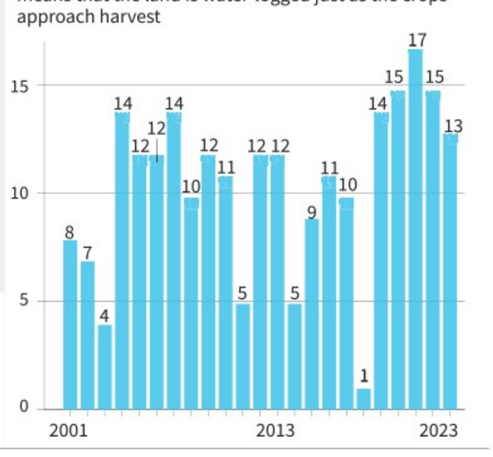


Chart 3: The number of rainy days for the month of September. September had 18% more rainy days, which means that the land is water-logged just as the crops approach harvest



Ishita Jalan and Lakshmikantha NR are hydrologists at the Water, Environment, Land and Livelihoods (WELL) Labs

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 4, 1974

Ford explains strategic arms accord with Russia

Washington, Dec. 3: The United States President, Mr. Gerald Ford, said last night that his strategic arms accord with the Soviet Union would allow the two super-powers arsenals of 2,400 nuclear missiles and bombers apiece, and called it "a real breakthrough".

He told a news conference that the agreement, still subject to more detailed negotiations to "convert this agreed framework into a comprehensive accord", would allow the two countries to put multiple warheads on 1,320 of the missiles in each nation's quota.

The agreement would run from 1975 to 1985.

"This does not permit an agreed build-up, it puts a cap on future build-ups," Mr. Ford said, "and it actually reduces a part of the build-up at the present time."

However, Mr. Ford said he intends to push the U.S. strength upto the levels contemplated by the agreement which covers intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched missiles and long-range bombers.

Answering questions, Mr. Ford stressed that nothing in the arms limitations agreement precluded the United States from increasing its throw-weight capabilities, meaning a more powerful missile that could carry a heavier warhead. He said several years ago, the U.S. military authorities made a decision to go in for smaller and more accurate missiles, while the Soviets set guidelines for "heavier missiles".

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 4, 1924

Wireless in Australia

Leafield (Oxford) Midnight, Dec 3: The beginning of a great forward movement in wireless communications between various parts of the British Empire is signified by a message from Australia reporting acceptance of the tender from the Marconi Company for erection in Australia of two stations on the beam system for communication direct with Canada and England respectively at an approximate cost of £120,000. The station communicating with England will be capable of transmission in two directions. The stations will have enormous traffic capacity, three times that previously guaranteed by high power stations. They will be equipped with high speed receiving and sending apparatus capable of handling four messages simultaneously one to and from England and one to end from Canada.

From Page One

'India, China have set ties on right track'

They were driven by "unstable" local situation, and the impact of the tensions on the bilateral relationship, he said, adding that the negotiations included 17 meetings of the WMCC (Working Mechanism for Cooperation and Coordination) and 21 rounds of the SHMC (Senior Highest Military Commanders meeting) since 2020.

The Minister said that the October 21 agreement had followed the two meetings he had with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in July, and one meeting between National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and Mr. Wang in September. Since the agreement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had met Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the Foreign Ministers had met on the sidelines of various conferences.

He also said that the focus had been on Demchok and Depsang since September 2022, which were the two remaining points of friction after the governments had achieved disengagement on five other points, including the Pangong Tso Lake and the Hot Springs area.

While he did not refer to "buffer zones" directly, Mr. Jaishankar said that "steps of a temporary and limited nature" had been taken in order to avoid further friction, and would be revisited "as the situation demands". In the wake of the October 21 agreement, several former military and diplomatic officials have questioned how *status quo ante* could be restored unless the buffer zones were dismantled.

Mr. Jaishankar claimed the government had ensured India's national security was upheld, with three key principles during the talks – that both sides should strictly respect and observe the LAC; that neither side should attempt to unilaterally alter the *status quo*; and that agreements and understandings reached in the past must be fully abided by in their entirety.

Dhaka summons Indian envoy after breach

"We are interested in working with the Government of Bangladesh to fulfil our shared aspirations for peace, security and development," he added.

Sources said the meeting was "cordial".

On Tuesday, protests against alleged atrocities targeting minority Hindus in Bangladesh continued in Agartala, Assam, and West Bengal. The Sanatani Yuba, a right-wing youth organisation, held a protest rally in Agartala under heavy security presence. Anti-Bangladesh sentiment was on display across Assam. Congress members gathered outside the Bangladesh mission in Guwahati to protest against atrocities targeting minority Hindus in Bangladesh. Protests were staged by the members of Lok Jagran Manch in the State's Nalbari, Chirang, Hojai, and Jorhat districts.

Bangladesh had reacted angrily on Monday after a group of people, who were protesting against the arrest of minority community leader Chinmoy Krishna Das in Dhaka, broke into the Agartala mission and tore the Bangladesh flag. Student activist and adviser to the interim government of Bangladesh, Nahid Islam, hit out at India on Tuesday and described West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's call for deployment of UN forces in Bangladesh as "baseless remark".

Three police sub-inspectors in Tripura were suspended for negligence following the security breach at the Bangladesh mission in Agartala. Seven protesters from the Hindu Sangharsh Samiti have been held in connection with the breach.

Following New Delhi's assurance of enhanced security measures outside the mission, CRPF and Tripura State Rifles troops have been deployed, and two checkpoints have been set up outside as a security measure.

(With inputs from Syed Sajjad Ali in Agartala and Rahul Karmakar in Guwahati)

LeT 'commander' killed in Srinagar encounter: police

Junaid Bhat was behind the attack at a tunnel construction site in Ganderbal in October that left seven civilians dead; J&K Police and Rashtriya Rifles launched the operation on Monday night

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

A Lashkar-e-Taiba "commander", allegedly behind an attack on workers at a tunnel construction site in Ganderbal in October, was killed in an overnight anti-militancy operation in the Harwan area of Srinagar, the police said on Tuesday.

They said Junaid Ahmed Bhat, a resident of Kulgam, was killed in a joint operation by the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Army's Rashtriya Rifles in the upper reaches of Dachigam.

The operation was launched on Monday night and resulted in a gunfight with hiding militants.

"The operation was based on specific intelligence inputs. It was conducted in the rugged and forested outskirts of Srinagar," Inspector-General of Police V.K. Birdi said.

The police said Bhat's face was captured on CCTV camera when he led the attack on workers in the Gagangir area of Ganderbal on October 20. Seven civilians – a local doctor and six non-local workers – were killed in the attack.

Security personnel stand guard during an encounter in the Dachigam forest area of Srinagar on Tuesday. IMRAN NISSAR

Mr. Birdi said the security forces tracked Bhat for a considerable time, "leading to the successful conclusion of this operation".

Security forces and militants had exchanged fire in the same forest range on November 10. However, the militants managed to escape.

VDG found dead

In a separate incident, a missing village defence guard was found dead with bullet wounds at Udhampur. The victim was identified as Ashok Kumar.

"A member of the VDG who went missing has been found dead under mysterious circumstances far from his house in Chapper, Latti area of district Udhampur. He was hit by a bullet," Amod Nagpure, Senior Superintendent of Police, Udhampur, said.

He said the police recovered a .303 rifle from the spot.

"As per our investigation, including FSL examination and post-mortem, it largely looks like a suicide, and there is no terror angle to it," Mr. Nagpure said.

Two women detained

The police detained two women under the Public Safety Act in Udhampur for allegedly working as overground workers for militants.

The police identified the accused as Maryama Begum and Arshad Begum.

"The two women have been detained under provisions of the PSA because the two were intentionally and wilfully providing logistical support to the terrorists," Mr. Nagpure said.

Justice Manmohan appointed judge of Supreme Court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Justice Manmohan

The Union government on Tuesday notified the appointment of Justice Manmohan, the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, as a judge of the Supreme Court.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Manmohan, Chief Justice, High Court of Delhi, to be a Judge of the Supreme Court of India, with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office," the Department of Justice notification read.

Acting Chief Justice

Justice Vibhu Bakhru, the senior most *puisne* judge of the Delhi High Court, has been appointed Acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court with effect from the date Justice Manmohan relinquishes the charge of his office consequent upon his elevation as a Supreme Court judge.

Justice Manmohan's elevation increases the Supreme Court's judicial strength to 33, one short of the full sanctioned strength.

The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, had recommended Justice Manmohan's name for appointment as a top court judge on November 28. He was also the first recommendation to the Supreme Court Bench from the Collegium led by Chief Justice Khanna.

The two vacancies had arisen in the top court with the retirements of Chief Justice Khanna's predecessor, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, and Justice Hima Kohli.

In good health, says Shinde after routine check-up at hospital

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The distribution of key portfolios remains a contentious issue within the Mahayuti

Maharashtra's Caretaker Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who reported sick for the past couple of days, visited a private hospital in Thane on Tuesday for a medical check-up, just days ahead of the new government's swearing-in ceremony. The event is scheduled to be held on Thursday at the Azad Maidan in Mumbai.

Shortly after the check-up, Mr. Shinde, who returned to Varsha, the CM's official residence, said that he was in good health. "I came for a routine check-up. My health is fine," he said.

Later in the evening, Chief Minister-probable and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis met Mr. Shinde at Varsha. Mr. Shinde had been experiencing throat-related issues and underwent precautionary tests, including an MRI.

"He had a fever and throat infection that caused some weakness. However, he tested negative for dengue. It is a routine check-up," said Shiv Sena leader and MLA-elect Uday Samant.

Mr. Shinde, a key figure in the BJP-led Mahayuti coalition, had been staying at his private residence in Thane after feeling unwell during the recent State election campaign. His visit to his native village in Satara last week had fuelled speculation about potential dissatisfaction with the new government's formation.

The Maharashtra BJP will hold a meeting on Wednesday to elect its legislature party leader.

The distribution of key portfolios remains a contentious issue within the Mahayuti alliance. Shiv Sena leaders have staked a claim to the Home portfolio, citing alliance conventions.

Shiv Sena will leverage Shinde's clout to bag a few important portfolios

NEWS ANALYSIS

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

There's a repeated sentiment one hears from Shiv Sena leaders in Maharashtra: "Respectable treatment should be given to our leader Eknath Shinde." It comes attached with an unsaid warning: "Don't trifle with him. Don't take him lightly."

With the Mahayuti still dragging its feet on government formation days after its sweeping victory in the Maharashtra Assembly election, most Shiv Sena leaders seem to have accepted that the party's 57 seats are unlikely to bring Mr. Shinde back to the Chief Minister's chair given the BJP's 132-seat tally, but they emphasise this means that their party – and their leader – must be given a larger consideration in other areas as their just due.

As he prepares for an imminent stepdown, the Caretaker Chief Minister faces the dilemma of how to best use it to leverage the party's bargaining power, for stronger portfolios including the Home Department, as well as a larger role in the Union government. Shiv Sena leaders stress the need to preserve Mr. Shinde's legacy as the common man's CM, who set a precedent by opening the doors of his office and residence to ordinary people.

Caretaker CM of Maharashtra Eknath Shinde during a meeting to review preparations for 'Mahaparinirvan Day' in Mumbai. PTI

Bargaining power

"We did not ask for anything in the Centre earlier. Even when we had more numbers than some other regional parties, we were given a [Minister of State] position. We did not say anything because we had the Chief Minister's position [in Maharashtra]. Now, if that is being taken away, then our party needs to grow too," one Shiv Sena leader said.

All the Shiv Sena leaders *The Hindu* spoke with denied rumours about the party declining the position of Deputy CM or giving mere outside support to a BJP government.

Over the past two-and-a half years, Mr. Shinde has established himself as a strong leader who brought electoral gains to the Mahayuti alliance from the bitter split with Uddhav Thackeray's Sena. From being expected to play second fiddle to the BJP, to coming into his own over a short span of time, he has shown political presence of mind.

"Whoever becomes the CM now will have larger shoes to fill. He showed how to be a people's man. He would stop his convoy to greet people, he would open his doors for the poor and the needy, without any bureaucratic considerations," a senior Sena leader said. "Will any other CM allow people to meet him at his official residence at 2 a.m.? He has changed the image of the CM in a common man's life," the leader added.

"For me, the biggest position is being the favourite brother of my favourite sisters," was Mr. Shinde's response to all the speculation. He let his actions speak instead of words: just two days before a new government is formed, despite his illness, the Caretaker CM called for a meeting of the State administration to conduct business as usual.

Congress seeks raw Maharashtra voter data from poll body

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A delegation of Congress leaders on Tuesday met the Election Commission and flagged "discrepancies" in the Maharashtra Assembly election.

The party said there was an unprecedented increase in the number of voters in the five-month period between the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, and glaring inconsistencies in the voter turnout data.

Congress leaders Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Mukul Wasnik, Nana Patole, Pawan Khera, Praveen Chakravarty, Gurdeep Sappal, Sasikanth Senthil, Omar Hoda, and Sanjeev Singh were part of the delegation.

Talking to presspersons later, Mr. Singhvi said the meeting took place in a very cordial manner. The delegation sought raw data, both booth-wise and constituency-wise.

A note submitted to Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar by Mr. Praveen Chakravarty highlighted that 75 lakh more voters exercised their franchise in the Maharashtra Assembly election compared with the Lok Sabha election. The delegation also flagged the addition of 39 lakh voters in the electoral rolls since the Lok Sabha polls.

Mr. Chakravarty said they sought raw data for Form 6 and Form 7 through which deletions and additions in voter lists are done.

Post-mortem on militants killed in Manipur shows fatal bullet wounds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The bodies of 10 armed militants from the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar community, who were killed in an alleged gunfight with the Central Reserved Police Force (CRPF) in Manipur's Jiribam last month, had been riddled with multiple fatal bullet injuries, including in their heads, according to the preliminary post-mortem examinations conducted on their remains at the Silchar Medical College and Hospital (SCMH) in Assam.

The reports from the SMCH identified the deceased men as Ramneilien, 29, Fimlien Kung Ngurte, 31, Elvis Lalropei Zote, 21, Lalthanei, 22, Joseph Laldittum, 19, Francis Lalzarlien, 25, Roulneisang, 30, Lalsiemlien Hmar, 30, Henry Lalsanglien, 25, and a minor aged 16.

Strict watch: State and Central forces patrol after armed militants carried out an attack on civilians in Jiribam last week. PTI

As per the examination of the deceased militants, the bodies of Ngurte, Lalzarlien, Hmar, and Lalsanglien had one eye each that appeared severely damaged.

The reports detailed many of the wound trajectories suggesting that the bullets hit them from behind.

CRPF Director-Geneal Anish Dayal Singh did not respond to queries from *The Hindu* about the nature of injuries found in the post-mortem examination reports.

In all the reports, the cause of death had been kept pending till the chemical analysis reports on their viscera were received from the Directorate of Forensic Sciences in Guwahati.

On November 11, security officials in Manipur said the armed militants were killed in "retaliatory fire" by the CRPF when an outpost had come under attack near the Borobekra police station in Jiribam district, which borders Assam's Cachar district.

The Kuki-Zo Council, a coalition of civil society organisations of the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar people, has maintained that the men killed were "Kuki-Zo village volunteers", even as security sources insisted that the men were not from Jiribam but were from neighbouring Churachandpur and Pherzawl districts.

Markadwadi residents drop 're-election' plan

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A plan by residents of Markadwadi village in the Malshiras Assembly constituency in Solapur district of Maharashtra to hold a "re-election" using ballot papers was called off on Tuesday following intervention from the local police and administration.

A controversy had erupted when villagers, dissatisfied with the results of the November 20 election, expressed distrust over EVMs and said they would organise a ballot paper "re-poll" on Tuesday. However, the administration imposed prohibitory orders till December 5. The authorities rejected the villagers' demand, asserting that the elections were conducted lawfully.

APPEAL

Lourdes Antony Abi is 13 years old is advised to undergo Kavashima Procedure (Heart Surgery) at Public Health Centre, Chennai. The total expenditure is Rs.2,00,000/-. Her father works as a fisherman at Tuticorin. Her family is very poor and they cannot afford this huge cost. Please help her to undergo the surgery and lead a healthy life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No. 60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324 / 7338978027.**
E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

Dhankhar asks govt. to hold talks with protesting farmers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Wondering why there has been no dialogue with protesting farmers, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar said in Mumbai on Tuesday that farmers in distress and agitating farmers did not augur well for the overall well-being of the nation. He was speaking at the Centenary Foundation Day of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology.

The Vice-President asked Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who was also present at the function, if any promise had been made to farmers, and said that dialogue with the farmer should happen immediately. "Honourable Agriculture Minister, did the previous Agriculture Ministers make any written promises? If so, what happened to them?" he said.

"Agriculture Minister Sir, every moment is critical for you. I request you to please tell me, was any promise made to the farmer, and why has it not been fulfilled? What are we doing to fulfil the promise? There was an agitation last year, and there is one this year as well, and time is passing, but we are doing nothing," he said.

Mr. Dhankhar asked Mr. Chouhan to consider the dialogue with the farmers as a challenge that should not be considered any less than the unity of India. "We cannot fight with our own people; we cannot put them in this situation where they are left to fight on their own. Those whom we need to embrace cannot be pushed away," Mr. Dhankhar said

Police arrest over 160 protesting farmers in Noida

NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh police on Tuesday arrested over 160 farmers who were holding a dharna at Noida's 'Dalit Prerna Sthal' after their march to Parliament for higher land compensation and the redress of other issues was halted a day earlier. Those arrested included Bharatiya Kisan Parishad chief Sukhbir Khalifa and the west U.P. chief of the Bhartiya Kisan Union, Pawan Khatana. The development drew a sharp response from the Samyukt Kisan Morcha.

Bank Bill passes LS, allows one account, 4 nominees

Finance Minister says proposed amendments will strengthen governance and enhance customer convenience; Opposition criticises government over inflation being higher than economic growth

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the first Bill of the Winter Session after the week-long logjam ended.

The Bill, piloted by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, was approved by a voice vote.

The Bill allows bank account holders to have up to four nominees in their accounts and also proposes changes related to redefining "substantial interest" for directorships, which could increase to ₹2 crore instead of the current limit of ₹5 lakh.

It proposes to increase the tenure of directors (excluding the chairman and whole-time director) in cooperative banks from eight years to 10 years, so as to align with the Constitution (Ninety-Seventh Amendment) Act, 2011.

Once passed, the Bill will allow a director of a Central Cooperative Bank to serve on the Board of a State Cooperative Bank. The Bill also seeks to give greater freedom to banks in deciding the remuneration to be paid to statutory auditors.

Discussions begin: Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament. PTI

It also seeks to redefine the reporting dates for banks for regulatory compliance to the 15th and last day of every month instead of the second and fourth Fridays.

"The proposed amendments will strengthen governance in the banking sector and enhance customer convenience with respect to nomination and protection of investors," Ms. Sitharaman said while moving the Bill for consideration and passing.

Depositors will have the option of successive or simultaneous nomination facility, while locker holders will have only successive nomination. "The intention is to keep our banks safe, stable, healthy, and after 10 years you are seeing the outcome," Ms. Sitharaman said.

Participating in the debate earlier, the Opposition parties criticised the Bill.

Gaurav Gogoi, Deputy Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, questioned the rising imports from China at a time when relations between the two countries were strained. He also questioned the government over demonetisation and electoral bonds.

Rani Srikumar of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam questioned the fees for basic banking services such as ATM withdrawals and SMS alerts and expressed concern over the vulnerability of senior citizens to cyberfraud.

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) leader Supriya Sule proposed a stricter approach to tackling financial fraud, and suggested that perpetrators compensate victims before serving prison sentences.

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram said the Indian rupee against the US dollar was at ₹84.73, and the growth rate in quarter two of FY25 was 5.4%, the lowest in seven quarters, while the inflation was 6.21%. "Whenever inflation is greater than economic growth, it will lead to stagflation. Against this backdrop, this government has brought about the Banking Laws Amendment Bill," he said.

INBRIEF

Trinamool and SP missing at INDIA's protest on Adani row

Having reached an agreement with the government after a week of disrupting Parliament sessions, some Opposition parties on Tuesday took their protest against the government's silence on the Adani indictment to the Makar Dwar, the main entrance of the Parliament complex. Top leaders at the protest included Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the AAP's Sanjay Singh, the RJD's Misa Bharti, and the Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Arvind Sawant. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MPs and those from Left parties joined in. The Trinamool Congress and Samajwadi Party MPs were significant absentees.

Received 42 adjournment notices under Rule 267: V-P

For the first time since the start of the Winter Session, the Rajya Sabha functioned smoothly on Tuesday. Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar said that he received 42 adjournment notices under Rule 267 on various issues, the highest so far in the last quarter century of the adoption of the Constitution. He did not accept any of the notices. Mr. Dhankhar said that one of the MPs had given more than one notice under Rule 267 and it was humanly impossible to accommodate the member. He also expressed anguish that a notice had been made public even before it was considered. He termed it a "disregard of provisions" and said it was too serious a matter.

Stop assaults on Hindus, Jama Masjid Imam tells Bangladesh

Terming mistreatment of minorities as a 'reprehensible act', Shahi Imam of Delhi's Jama Masjid, Syed Ahmed Bukhari, on Tuesday asked the Bangladesh government to stop injustices and assaults against Hindus in the country. Condemning the unilateral actions against the minority community, Mr. Bhukari said there was no justification for such actions. "Wherever in the world there is any form of oppression, coercion, prejudice and hatred against minorities or issues related to their fundamental rights and participation, it is the right of every nation, under international laws and regulations, to raise questions about it," he said.

Rahul and Priyanka likely to visit violence-hit area in U.P.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other party MPs from Uttar Pradesh are planning to visit violence-hit Sambhal on Wednesday, despite restrictions on the entry of outsiders until December 10. " The visit aims to create harmony and brotherhood in the area. He [Mr. Rahul]will meet the victims' families," Ajay Rai, State Congress chief told *The Hindu*.

More cases filed under SC/ST Act due to awareness, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Tuesday told the Lok Sabha that "growing awareness, wider publicity, and capacity building of police personnel" were among the reasons for the increasing number of cases being registered across the country under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) show that over 67,000 cases had been registered in 2022 under the SC/ST Act. This is the highest number of cases registered under this Act since 2013, according to the NCRB data provided by the Social Justice Ministry.

Among them, 57,582 and 10,064 cases were registered with regard to atrocities against people belonging to SC and ST communities, respectively.

Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar tabled a statement in the House on Tuesday. The statement came in response to a question from Janata Dal (U) MP Alok Kumar Suman.

Mr. Suman had asked the government to provide data with regard to discrimination in Central universities, the Indian Institutes of Technology, the Indian Institutes of Management, the All India Institutes of Medical Science, and public sector undertakings. "Data regarding discrimination against SC/STs in the educational institutions and public sector units in not centrally maintained," Mr. Kumar said in response.

Mr. Kumar, however, added that various steps had been taken to "reduce discrimination" , which included setting up SC/ST cells, equal opportunity cells, and student grievance cells, and appointing liaison officers.

Considered proposals for inclusion of 365 groups on Central OBC list, says govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Backward Classes has considered proposals for inclusion of 365 castes and communities on the Central list of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the 10 years between March 2014 and November 2024, the Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

In considering these proposals, the NCBC had tendered advice 147 times, the government added, without disclosing how many of them were in favour of inclusion and how many were rejected.

In a government report released in June 2023 to celebrate the National Democratic Alliance government's nine years in power, the Social Justice Ministry had said it had facilitated the inclusion of 16 communities on the list since 2014.

Seeking details: The response was to a question raised by AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi in Parliament. FILE PHOTO

The information on proposals for inclusion with the NCBC was provided by Minister of State for Social Justice B.L. Verma in response to an unstarred question from AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi.

'More details'

Mr. Owaisi had asked for details of groups, castes and communities that had approached either the government or the NCBC with proposals for being included on the Central OBC lists since 2014 and their current status. He had further asked for details of proposals that had been rejected and accepted and are under consideration of the government.

In response, the government said Parliament was entitled to include or exclude communities from the Central list of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes by law.

It said this process was "an ongoing exercise" depending on the receipt of a complete proposal with ethnographic report from the State or Union Territory concerned along with the outcome of a mandated public hearing.

Centre proposes 95% govt. job reservation for locals in Ladakh

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has proposed 95% reservation in government jobs for locals in Ladakh, one-third reservation for women in hill councils and has agreed to address concerns regarding land-related matters, according to leaders from the region who attended a high-powered committee (HPC) meeting on Tuesday.

The Centre has also proposed to work on a draft to ensure "constitutional safeguards" to preserve the land and culture of Ladakh and also agreed to declare Urdu and Bhoti the official languages of Ladakh. The Ministry proposed to review 22 pending laws to address local concerns, empowerment and wildlife areas.

Ladakh has been protesting for the past five years since it lost constitutional safeguards ensured under Article 370 of the Constitution.

Former BJP MP, Thupstan Chhewang, chairman of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) who attended the talks, said a separate public service commission was not constitutionally possible for Ladakh as the Union Territory did not have a legislature.

Recruitments soon

"The government has assured us that recruitments will start immediately. We said recruitments for gazetted posts should be done through the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission [JKPSC]," Mr. Chhewang said.

"The next meeting is on January 15 where sixth schedule will be discussed," he said.

For the past five years, people in Ladakh have been pressing for four demands – Statehood for Ladakh, inclusion of Ladakh in the sixth schedule of the Constitution, thus giving it a tribal status, job reservation for locals and a Parliamentary seat each for Leh and Kargil.

Government of Rajasthan
(Water Resources Department)
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES (NORTH)
HANUMANGARH
Notice Inviting Bid
(NIB Code- WRN2425A0056)

Bid for 01 No of package estimated cost Rs 2496.38 lacs involving **Renovation and Modernization of Shyam Singh Wala (SSW) distributary Km. 0.000 to 29.454 of Bhakara canal system District- Hanumangarh** is invited from prospective bidders up to 20.12.2024 at 6.00 PM. Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, of the state and **www.water.rajasthan.gov.in** departmental website.

UBN No.- WRN2425WLOB00226
DIPR/C/12101/2024 Chief Engineer

Centre has no role to play in deletion of MGNREGS job cards, says Ministry

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Deletions have no correlation with push for the wage payment based on Aadhaar: Ministry

The Centre has no role in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme job-card deletions, the Union Rural Development Ministry said on Tuesday. The response was to oral questions during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha.

The government also denied any correlation between the mandatory imposition of the Aadhaar-based payment system for MGNREGS wages and high rate of job-card deletions.

Congress MP K.C. Venugopal said that in the past four years, names of 10.43 crore MGNREGS workers had been deleted from the programme. He said that in 2021-22, 1.49 crore were removed which jumped by 247% in 2022-23 with the deletion of 5.53 crore. Terming the jump "shocking", he asked whether this surge coincided with the directions making Aadhaar-based payments mandatory for paying MGNREGS workers.

Replying to the question, Minister of State and TDP leader Chandra S. Pemmasani said that Aadhaar seeding of the job card was aimed at increasing transparency and was not an obstacle. He said the job cards are deleted based on five factors – fake card, duplicate card, if the beneficiary has moved from one panchayat to another, or the beneficiary has expired, or the beneficiary no longer wants to work under the programme or the area has been reclassified as urban. "Deletion of job cards is the State's responsibility and the Centre has no role in it," he said.

He also answered questions of Mr. Venugopal, Congress MP Sasikanth Senthil, DMK MP T.R. Baalu and others about the reduction in the budget for the scheme. He said that the scheme was a demand-based programme and the Centre increased allocation based on the State government's demand.

Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee said that the MGNREGS funds had been stopped for West Bengal for the past three-years. Both Mr. Pemmasani and Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan alleged that irregularities had led to the stoppage of the funds.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA SLUM DEVELOPMENT BOARD
No. 55, Abhaya Complex, Risaldar Street, Seshadripuram,BENGALURU-560 020. Ph.:080-23460085

No. KSDB/Comm/CE/IFT-KSIC Bhavan/2024-25/1678 Dated 28.11.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

The Karnataka Slum Development Board (KSDB) Bangalore invites Expression of Interest for the Qualified Architectural and Engineering Firms (AE Firms) for (Preparation of Layout plan, building plan, designs/drawings, Detailed Project Report, tender documents and allied services etc.) & Appointment of Project Management Consultants (PMCs) for supervision, quality assurance and documentation) for **Proposed construction of KSIC Bhavan at Queens Road, Bangalore City.**

Calendar of Events	
Downloading of tender documents up to	16.12.2024 at 5:30 PM
Date and Time for Pre-Proposal Conference	09.12.2024 at 03:30 PM
last date and time for receipt of tender Documents	16.12.2024 upto 5.30 PM
Time and Date of Opening of Tender Document (Qualification Criteria) Technical bid	18.12.2024 at 11:00 AM
Place of Pre-Proposal Conference and Opening of Tender Documents	Office of the Chief Engineer, Karnataka Slum Development Board #55, 1st Floor, Abhaya Complex, Risaldar Street, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020 Phone: 080-8884492377, Email ID: ksdbce@gmail.com Website: www.ksdb.karnataka.gov.in
Opening of Financial bid	Will be intimated to the qualified tenderers.

If there are any changes to the above notification, it will be published in e-procurement portal only. Tender Documents, schedule, specifications are available on the website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Tender form fees & EMD details are available on the kpp portal. EMD and tender processing fees shall be paid using e-procurement payment modes only. Tender application must be accompanied by earnest money deposit specified for the works and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of tender date.

Sd/- Commissioner,
DIPR/CP/JA/3585/2024-25 Karnataka Slum Development Board, Bangalore

INBRIEF

President gives away award for empowering disabled

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday conferred the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on 22 individuals and 11 institutions in recognition of their contributions to the sector, highlighting the "courage and determination of persons with disabilities", and calling them a "source of inspiration" for society. In her address, the President said that these awards have a far-reaching social significance, noting that they not only celebrate the achievements of the awardees in their respective fields but also "serve as motivation for society at large".

CJI recuses from pleas against new law for EC appointments

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Tuesday recused from hearing petitions alleging that a new law dealing with the appointment of Election Commissioners (ECs) gives the Central government a dominant role. The petitions have primarily challenged the validity of Section 7(1) of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Office) Act of 2023. The petitioners claimed that the 2023 law, especially Section 7(1), was introduced to dilute a Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court in the Anoop Baranwal case on March 2, 2023.

Minister slams Delhi, Bengal over women safety schemes

Union Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi on Tuesday criticised the Delhi and West Bengal governments for failing to implement women's safety measures such as one-stop centres (OSCs) and fast-track courts despite adequate Central assistance. Addressing a press conference here, Ms. Devi said the Delhi government had not paid the staff of OSCs established for distressed women. "The Centre has consistently supported States through initiatives such as Nirbhaya Fund, but it is disappointing to see delays in implementation at the State-level," she said.

National Achievement Survey to assess 23 lakh students

Around 23 lakh students of approximately 88,000 schools in 782 districts across 36 States and Union Territories will be covered in the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024, or the National Achievement Survey (NAS), to be held on Wednesday, the Ministry of Education said. *The Hindu* had earlier reported that NAS will be carried out in December for students of Classes 3, 6, and 9. The students will be assessed in the subjects of language, mathematics, the "world around us", science and social science. NAS is a baseline study to understand the achievement of the stage-specific competencies at the end of foundation, preparatory and middle stages as per NEP 2020.

Congress demands probe into privatisation of airports

Party says govt. has 'offered aviation sector on a platter to a few friends'; refers to privatisation of six AAI airports that were all bagged by the Adani Group in February 2019 after a bidding process

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Syed Naseer Hussain demanded a comprehensive probe into the privatisation of six airports of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) as part of its appeal for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) investigation into the bribery allegation against industrialist Gautam Adani.

This government has given the "aviation sector on a platter to a few friends", the MP said in the Rajya Sabha during a discussion on the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill, 2024.

Debate on: Members of the Rajya Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament on Tuesday. PTI

'Monopoly in sector'
The MP said that the AAI should be renamed "Adani Authority of India" in view of the monopoly in the airport sector of the Adani Group, which now has eight airports in its kitty. The Rajya Sabha member referred to the privatisation of six AAI airports that were all bagged by the Adani Group in February 2019 after a bidding process.

Referring to *The Hindu*'s report on July 28, 2019, the Congress leader asked why were the suggestions of the Department of Economic Affairs and NITI Aayog for not awarding more than two airports to the same entity as well as prior experience on operations and management of an airport brushed aside by the Public Private Appraisal Committee.

Mr. Hussain also said that after the privatisation of airports, the landing and parking charges had increased exponentially, including at the Lucknow airport where he said there was a hike of 418% to 471%.

"After stiff opposition in Kenya, the proposal for awarding an airport to the Adani Group was withdrawn. But in our country when we demand [the same] inside Parliament, no one agrees to an investigation. Agreements are being cancelled in other countries, but in our country they are being awarded contracts over contracts," he said.

"In the U.S. too, the Adani Group has been indicted over bribery allegations," the MP said while demanding a "comprehensive" investigation into the privatisation of airports as well as bribery allegations.

BJP plea
BJP MP Laxmikant Bajpai urged the Speaker of the House for certain references to the Prime Minister to be omitted as rules required that a discussion over a Bill should be confined to arguments in support or against the Bill.

BJP president J.P. Nadda too condemned the attempts to malign the Prime Minister and using objectionable language and urged for maintaining the dignity of the House and requested for those comments to be removed from records.

U.S. approves $1.17-bn deal for equipment for MH-60R helicopters

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin.

The United States has approved a possible $1.17-billion deal to sell India support equipment for MH-60R multi-role helicopters under its Foreign Military Sales programme.

Nine of the 24 choppers contracted under a $2.2-billion deal with Lockheed Martin in February 2020 have been inducted into India's armed services so far, officials said.

The U.S. Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) delivered the required certification notifying the U.S. Congress of this possible sale of follow-on systems. "The Government of India has requested to buy 30 Multifunctional Information Distribution System-Joint Tactical Radio Systems," the DSCA said.

To deter threats
"The proposed sale will improve the Government of India's capability to deter current and future threats by upgrading anti-submarine warfare capabilities. India will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces," the notification said.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin and any offset agreement will be defined in further negotiations.

Other items which do not fall in the major defence equipment category and are part of the prospective sale include advanced data transfer systems; external fuel tanks; forward-looking infrared systems; an operator machine interface assistant; spare containers; facilities study, design, construction and support; support and test equipment; munitions; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; and intermediate and depot-level repair capabilities and spares.

Procurements worth ₹21,772 crore receive nod from DAC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday approved five capital acquisition proposals worth ₹21,772 crore. These include water jet fast attack craft, fast interceptor craft, electronic warfare suite (EWS), next-generation radar warning receiver and advanced light helicopters for surveillance in coastal areas.

"The DAC granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement of 31 New Water Jet Fast Attack Crafts for the Indian Navy. These are designed to perform the task of low intensity maritime operations, surveillance, patrol, and search and rescue operations close to the coast," a Defence Ministry statement said. In addition, these vessels will play an effective role in anti-piracy missions, it stated.

On World Wildlife Day, making a clarion call to protect India's critically endangered species

The Hindu Bureau

Despite possessing only 2.4% of the world's land area, India accounts for 7-8% of all recorded species, which includes 45,000 species of plants and 91,000 of animals. This rich biodiversity is one of the reasons that it has been historically identified as a megadiverse country.

World Wildlife Conservation Day (December 4) serves as an occasion to not only celebrate the country's rich biodiversity but also evaluate if enough is being done to protect the critically endangered species that find a home here.

India has 10 biogeographic zones and is home to 8.58% of the mammalian species documented so far, with the corresponding figures for avian species being 13.66%, for reptiles 7.91%, for amphibians 4.66%, for fish 11.72% and for plants 11.8%.

Four of the 34 globally identified biodiversity hotspots, namely the Himalayas, Indo-Burma, the Western Ghats-Sri Lanka and Sundaland, are located in India.

With only about 2.4% of the world's total land surface, India punches far above its weight in encompassing the breadth that evolution has to offer. However, the natural bounty is often at odds with India's economic trajectory.

As the most populous country in the world and with 65% of the population aged under 35, India's growth trajectory implies a hunger for natural resources: land, wood, timber, forest produce, precious metals, coal and more. This unfortunately conflicts with wildlife habitat, bringing several species – of the land and air – too close to comfort with human settlements.

Indian civilisation has absorbed a tolerance, even reverence for several wild animals as is evidenced in its religious mythology. The wildlife reserves and sanctuaries in India, set up to conserve certain endangered species, are unfenced, unlike the big game reserves in Africa and neither is hunting permissible in India as a licensed, recreational sport.

Risk of extinction
However this doesn't imply that India is a haven for wildlife. There are 73 "critically endangered" species in India as of 2022 – the most updated estimates made available by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classifies species as critically endangered when they are at the highest risk of extinction in the wild. The number of critically endangered species has risen from 47 in 2011, though this also due to improvements in data availability and monitoring and not entirely due to animals of a species getting decimated.

Of the nine species of mammals considered critically endangered, eight are endemic, which means that their habitat is limited to a small geographic area within India. These include the Kashmir stag or Hangul, Malabar large-spotted civet, Andaman Shrew, Jenkin's shrew, Nicobar shrew, Namdapha flying squirrel, large rock rat and Leafletted leaf-nosed bat.

While the carnivores of the cat family – lions, tigers, cheetahs – garner considerable attention because of their appeal to tourism, they are only three on the list of critically endangered animals.

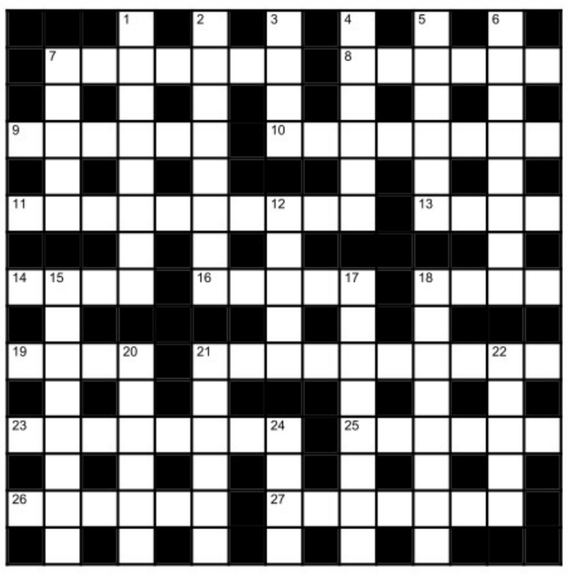
Birds such as the Great Indian Bustard face threats from sources such as powerlines in Rajasthan and often fail to garner the attention they deserve for their conservation.

TH CROSSWORD + 14347

(set by Saral)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across
7 Arab gentleman drunk with this stylish barman (7)
8 Preparing soy with bits of tuna, eel, roe for seafood (6)
9 Shake and stumble missing hard whiskey earlier (6)
10 Control from meditation perhaps without ego (8)
11 Workers leave before end of shift in branch (10)
13 Alert secret agent nabbing leader of rioters (4)
14 Real term used often (4)
16 Heard a groan in inlet (5)
18 Starts to purchase one roro ticket in harbour (4)
19 Flightless birds found in the museum (4)
21 New suitor's ad is ultimately terrible (10)
23 Channel finally covering European game (8)
25 Every now and then groups stalked stock taker (6)
26 Permanent shelter for horses (6)
27 Conspicuous way to restrain a legal right (7)

Down
1 Mixing a veg with brie for waffle (8)
2 Grand master with international club, hugging ace kid (8)
3 Dust around knob (4)
4 Presentation of mostly standard model (6)
5 Like an article on originally, simple yoga postures (6)
6 Curt reel created for academic (8)
7 Gradually destroy bar in eastern Spain (5)
12 We're ordering small pitchers (5)
15 Hangovers of disheartened men with tears sadly gulping last drop of gin (8)
17 Falcons, beautiful, rising up circling half of street (8)
18 Indian lady with daughter following agent from south collapsed (8)
20 Writer cries out holding book (6)
21 Exclude some Hindi spelling (6)
22 Dark underpass near lodge is terrifying for starters (5)
24 Deftness in arranging saree right away (4)

SUDOKU

			2		9		7	
5				3	7	4		
	9							8
					6	9		
	6	9				7	3	
		8	5					
1							4	
		4	3	1				6
	8		4		2			

No.SS6359 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Y	G		L		B				B		B		B	
A	C	A	D	E	M	I	A		S	O	I	R	E	E
B		M		T		A		G		D		E		F
B	L	E	N	D		S	U	R	R	E	N	D	E	R
Y		Y		O				O		G				I
				W	O	R	D	S	F	A	I	L	M	E
A		E		N		U		S				A		N
L	I	V	E	S	O	F	F	T	H	E	G	R	I	D
T		E				F		O		Y		K		S
I	N	S	E	N	T	I	E	N	C	E				
M				U		A				S		S		C
E	S	T	A	M	I	N	E	T		I	G	L	O	O
T		E		B		S		O		G		Y		A
E	L	E	V	E	N		M	A	N	H	O	L	E	S
R		S		R				T		T		Y		T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	2	3	5	8	6	4	7
6	8	5	1	4	7	2	3	9
4	3	7	9	6	2	5	1	8
5	9	8	7	2	3	1	6	4
3	7	1	6	8	4	9	5	2
2	4	6	5	9	1	8	7	3
7	2	3	8	1	5	4	9	6
8	5	9	4	7	6	3	2	1
1	6	4	2	3	9	7	8	5

FAITH

Lakshmi's graceful glance

Praying to Mahalakshmi and seeking to come under Her benevolent glance will bear fruit if one attempts it with complete devotion and humility. Nothing exemplifies this better than the episode of Rama successfully bending Siva's formidable bow at Sita's *swayamvaram*, said S. Perundevi in a discourse.

Why did Janaka, Sita's father, institute such a task for prospective suitors of Sita? Janaka once saw Sita playing with her friends and when the box in which the bow lay came in the way of play, She lifted it with one hand and set it aside. The Mithila ruler immediately realised that She was special and could not marry any ordinary ruler.

Rama followed sage Viswamitra into Mithila. In his Ramayana, Kamban says that as Rama was nearing the palace, he looked up at a balcony where Sita was standing, and looking into her eyes, he could look at nothing else. "What shall we say is the cause that Lakshmi left Her lotus home and was born on earth?" he asks, emphasising the role Narayana and Mahalakshmi were to play in destroying Ravana, for which they manifested on earth as Rama and Sita. While Viswamitra and others wait for Rama to lift the bow in the *swayamvaram*, He looks at Sita, seeking her glance, communicating as it were to Her, "Unless you, who is none other than Mahalakshmi, look at me and your gaze rests on my shoulder, I cannot attain you." Following this silent exchange, Rama looked down, lightly grasped the bow, strung it and drew it to the full. The bow broke and fell at his feet as if surrendering to the Lord, seeking *saranagati*. Whoever surrenders to Perumal will receive the blessings of not only Rama but also Mahalakshmi.

INBRIEF

Swiggy's Q2 loss narrows marginally to ₹626 crore

Food and grocery delivery platform Swiggy on Tuesday reported narrowing of consolidated net loss at ₹625.53 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2024 on the back of continued growth of food delivery business. The company, which is declaring its quarterly results to stock exchanges for the first time since it went public last month, had posted a consolidated net loss of ₹657 crore in the year-earlier period. PTI

Post withdrawal, 98.08% of ₹2,000 notes returned: RBI

The total value of ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation, which was ₹3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, when its withdrawal was announced, declined to ₹6,839 crore at the close of business on November 29, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Tuesday. "Thus, 98.08% of the ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, has since been returned," it said. Despite the withdrawal, ₹2,000 banknotes continue to be legal tender.

Tata AutoComp appoints Manoj Kolhatkar as MD, CEO

Tata AutoComp Systems Ltd. (TACO) has announced the appointment of Manoj Kolhatkar as its new MD & CEO. Mr. Kolhatkar, a Tata veteran has spent about 22 years in the Tata Group across Tata Motors and TACO. "Manoj Kolhatkar's extensive industry knowledge, visionary leadership, and track record of driving transformative growth align perfectly with Tata AutoComp's mission to innovate and excel," said Arvind Goel, chairman, Tata AutoComp Systems.

Third spike in a row lifts Sensex to almost 45-day high

The Nifty also gained 0.75% to close near a one-month peak of 24,457 points with 41 of 50 stocks rising; Adani Ports & SEZ, NTPC, State Bank of India and Larsen & Toubro were top Sensex gainers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian markets continued to rebound for the third straight day on Tuesday, after a weak streak in recent weeks, lifting the benchmark BSE Sensex to the highest level in about a month and a half, and the Nifty to about a month-high.

The 50-stock Nifty rose 0.75% or 181.1 points to close at 24,457.15 points, while the 30-share Sensex hit 80,845.75, 0.74% or almost 598 points over Monday's close. The last time the Sensex closed above this level was on October 21. 41 Nifty stocks surged on Tuesday, while 25 Sensex stocks advanced, led by Adani Ports and SEZ that jumped 6%, NTPC (up 2.6%), as well as Larsen & Toubro and State Bank of India, both of which rose 2.12% each.

Recovery path: The 30-share Sensex hit 80,845.75, 0.74%, or almost 598 points over Monday's close. FILE PHOTO

"Cash market volumes on the NSE rose 16% to ₹1.15 lakh crore and the broader market indices rose more than the Nifty even as the advance decline ratio rose to 2.8:1," remarked Deepak Jasani, head of retail research at HDFC Securities.

Market observers' hopes that China will unveil fresh measures to boost the world's number two economy following reports that authorities will hold a key meeting next week even as the yuan fell to a one-year low vs the US Dollar, also played a part in Asian markets' uptick, Mr. Jasani noted.

GST rate hike claims are 'premature, speculative'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs dismissed reports indicating significant indirect tax rate changes and hikes in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates of various goods and services, as 'premature and speculative', and stressed that a ministerial group tasked with rationalising the multiple GST rates is yet to finalise its recommendations.

While the GST Council, set to meet in Jaisalmer on December 21, had constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to suggest a reform of its rate structure, the Council has not yet deliberated on any GST rate changes, a statement said.

"The Council has not even received the recommendations of the GoM. In fact, the GoM has yet to finalise and present its recommendations to the Council after which the Council will take a final view on the recommendations of the GoM," it added.

"It is the GST Council chaired by the Union Finance Minister and including Ministers of all the States and Union Territories, which is empowered to recommend GST rates including changes to them. The GoM is only a recommendatory body," it noted.

On Tuesday, stocks of firms with exposures to sin goods like cigarettes and aerated beverages, such as ITC, slid as reports said the GoM had recommended a GST levy hike on such goods from 28% to 35%.

RBI asks banks to activate frozen, inoperative accounts

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to take urgent and necessary steps to bring down the number of inoperative/ frozen accounts and make the process of activation of such accounts smoother and hassle free.

The banks were told to enable seamless updation of KYC through mobile/Internet banking, non-home branches and video customer identification.

On higher side

The RBI's direction came after it found the number of inoperative accounts/ unclaimed deposits was on the higher side vis-a-vis total deposits and in absolute terms. "The reasons were attributed to either inactivity for a long time or pending updation/periodic updation of KYC," the central bank said.

Rupee sinks to fresh low of 84.75/USD before late recovery

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The rupee fell to a fresh all-time low of ₹84.75 against the U.S. Dollar on Tuesday, but recovered to ₹84.68 by the end of the day, even as U.S. President Elect Donald Trump's warning of a 100% tariff on the BRICS economies if they pursued a new common currency to counter the U.S. Dollar's global hedgemony reverberated across global currency markets.

The Chinese Yuan fell a sharp 0.15% to CNY 7.28 per dollar, a day after the Rupee tanked 0.2%. International factors have more to do with the rupee's fall than domestic factors, said Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis.

"The U.S. Dollar has been strengthening and Mr. Trump's threat to the BRICS nations about an 100% duty on their products for embarking on an alternative currency has added to that," he noted.

IndiGo files law suit against Mahindra, seeks to prevent use of '6e' mark in e-SUV

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Low-cost airline InterGlobe Aviation Ltd. (IndiGo) has filed a law suit against Mahindra Electric Mobility Ltd., a subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) in the Delhi High Court, charging the electric SUV company with trademark infringement.

Last week, Mahindra unveiled two electric SUVs and one of them is named BE 6e. IndiGo, which has its call sign as 6E, believes that the use of 6e (e in lowercase) is a violation of its identity and trademark.

"The 6E mark is an integral part of IndiGo's identity for the past 18 years and is a registered trademark that holds strong global recognition. The 6E mark, whether standalone or in its variants and formative forms, is extensively used by IndiGo for its offerings and for goods and services provided in collaboration with trusted partners," IndiGo said in a statement.

Infringment

"Any unauthorised use of the 6E mark, whether standalone or in any form, constitutes an infringement of IndiGo's rights, reputation, and goodwill. IndiGo is committed to taking all necessary and appropriate steps to safeguard its intellectual property and brand identity," IndiGo, India's biggest airline by market share, said.

The Gurugram-headquartered company did not provide a copy of the law suit.

Rajya Sabha passes Bill to delink petro from mining

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill aimed at delinking petroleum operations from mining operations, broadening the scope of the expression 'mineral oils' and introducing the concept of 'petroleum lease' among other provisions.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the Bill provides for efficacious dispute resolution, decriminalising provisions by introducing penalties, and creating an environment to facilitate energy transition.

Tanishq eyes high double-digit growth in diamond jewellery sales

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Titan Company is targeting to achieve higher double-digit growth in the sale of diamond studded jewellery in the country through its jewellery brand Tanishq, Ajoy Chawla, CEO of the firm's jewellery division told *The Hindu*.

This comes in the backdrop of Titan Company having entered into a tie-up with diamond mining company De Beers a few months ago to promote natural diamonds in India.

"The penetration of diamond jewellery among customers in India is in single digits, or at best 10% to 11%. If you look at the size of the total jewellery industry, it is about ₹5.5 lakh crore to ₹6.4 lakh crore. The size of the diamond industry is between ₹70,000 to ₹75,000 crore," he said.

Ajoy Chawla

Limited penetration

"Despite all the work in the last several decades, the penetration of diamonds has remained limited even though it has grown. Our tie-up with De Beers will drive the growth of diamond industry in India," Mr. Chawla said.

"The whole idea is to increase the penetration. So, we are growing at a certain rate. There is good double-digit buyer growth for diamond jewellery, pre-festive, festive, post-festive growth. So, unlike what many in the media sometimes think, there is a double-digit buyer growth," Mr. Chawla emphasised

Stating that while gold has achieved 100% penetration in India, he said diamond studded jewellery has only seen about 8.9% penetration.

"And, therefore, certainly, we want higher growth. How much higher growth, we have not put a number to it. We have our goals. And, there is an expectation that the diamond studded jewellery market will grow at a faster rate," Mr. Chawla noted.

Diamonds may sparkle

Amit Pratihari, managing director of De Beers India Pvt. Ltd., said natural diamonds' consumption is set to rise in India.

"We estimate it is a around $8.5 billion diamond jewellery market. And, it is expected to grow to almost $20-$22 billion in the next 7-8 years. So, that's a huge opportunity considering the penetration is only 8-9%," he said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,846	0.74
US Dollar	84.68	0.04
Gold	79,000	-0.25
Brent oil	73.66	2.76

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2514.20	57.15
Adani Ports	1288.65	72.85
Apollo Hosp	7126.55	60.75
Asian Paints	2469.40	-9.65
Axis Bank	1160.50	23.40
Bajaj Auto	9161.80	31.45
Bajaj Finserv	1607.10	10.45
Bajaj Finance	6675.45	24.80
Bharat Elec	312.10	5.20
Bharti Airtel	1620.55	-23.05
BPCL	294.25	0.10
Britannia Ind	4909.60	2.35
Cipla	1533.90	26.20
Coal India	422.10	0.40
Dr Reddys Lab	1224.50	2.75
Eicher Motors	4844.35	23.65
Grasim Ind	2714.00	20.45
HCL Tech	1890.75	19.25
HDFC Bank	1826.30	21.60
HDFC Life	634.00	-6.20
Hero MotoCorp	4697.00	-51.45
Hindalco	667.55	4.95
Hind Unilever	2482.85	3.70
ICICI Bank	1308.40	3.75
IndusInd Bank	998.35	7.40
Infosys	1892.10	12.30
ITC	472.55	-4.65
JSW Steel	998.80	9.00
Kotak Bank	1749.90	-4.05
L&T	3787.05	83.00
M&M	3027.30	10.90
Maruti Suzuki	11279.25	39.95
NestleIndia	2261.70	9.85
NTPC	367.45	9.25
ONGC	262.35	4.80
PowerGrid Corp	329.65	1.80
Reliance Ind	1323.30	14.15
SBI Life	1440.95	18.90
State Bank	853.95	17.55
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3155.55	61.35
Sun Pharma	1800.05	-8.50
TataConsumerProduct	955.00	-2.00
Tata Motors	801.25	11.20
Tata Steel	146.54	0.13
TCS	4302.75	26.10
Tech Mahindra	1749.50	3.55
Titan	3332.75	25.90
Trent Ltd.	6841.35	36.05
UltraTech Cement	11852.35	203.80
Wipro	291.65	-0.63

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 03

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	84.49	84.81
Euro	88.89	89.23
British Pound	106.99	107.40
Japanese Yen (100)	56.43	56.65
Chinese Yuan	11.60	11.64
Swiss Franc	95.53	95.91
Singapore Dollar	62.83	63.08
Canadian Dollar	60.18	60.41
Malaysian Ringitt	18.89	18.98
Australian Dollar	54.81	55.03

Source:Indian Bank

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
MARINE DEPARTMENT
No.MD/SPG/I-12/2022/1573 Date:02/12/2024
e -Tender Call Notice
Name of the work : Supply of 01 no. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) (Drone) System for Paradip Port Authority including Installation, Commissioning, Certification, Test, Trial and Training for a period of five years (Comprehensive Warranty + Annual Maintenance Contract for 05 Years) including Buy Back. Estimated cost :Rs.1,36,15,000/- Plus GST. Last Date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is 17:00 hours on dt.26/12/2024. Technical Bids shall be opened at 16:00 hours on dt. 27/12/2024. For further details, please log on to the Website : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app .
Deputy Conservator, PPA
PPA/PR/53/2024-2025 / 03/12/2024

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER
ADMIN OFFICE BUILDING MEPZ – SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE,
GST ROAD, TAMBARAM, CHENNAI - 600 045
Advt.No. F.No.01/01/2023/MEPZ Authority Date: 29.11.2024
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
Applications are invited from the citizens of India for the position of 'Project Engineer' on purely contractual basis:
Details of qualifications, experience, application etc. given in **www.mepz.gov.in** may be referred.
The Last date for sending the duly complied application is 30 days from the date of publications of this advertisement. Applications not received in the format or received after the last date or found incomplete will not be considered.
Any addendum/reddendum/corrigendum, if any, shall be posted on our website only. For details please visit **www.mepz.gov.in**

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
e-Tenders are invited for supply of the items **(1) 1,70,000 Kgs of Goduma Ravva, (2) 3,600 Kgs of Coffee Powder (1/2 Kg Pkt)**, to the Marketing Department, T.T. Devasthanams. For Tender notice and Tender details log on to the web site **http://www.tirumala.org** and **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** For further details contact phone numbers: **0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax No.0877-2264554.**
TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv.No.249), Date:03-12-2024 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SRI VENKATESWARA UNIVERSITY :: TIRUPATI
NOTIFICATION
No.B-VII/Confidential Printing/2024 Dated:02-12-2024
Sri Venkateswara University calling for quotations from the reputed printers for **printing and supply of confidential material for a period of 2 years i.e., from March, 2025 to February, 2027.** The value of work may be around **Rs.One Crore** per year. Interested printers may visit the website **www.svuniversity.edu.in.** and follow the procedure.
Sd/- REGISTRAR, S.V. University, Tirupati.

Central Coalfields Limited
"A Miniratna Company"
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Fuelling Sustainable Growth
NOTICE
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in/** respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, **www.centralcoalfields.in),** CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids for "Construction of 132 kV S/C Line For M/s SBF Rapid Industries from 132 kV GSS Karoli on Monopole and Lattice Tower Including Detailed Route Survey, Installation, Erection and Testing & Commissioning Along with Associated Accessories/Items and Civil Works against specification No.RVPN/EHV/A&SP/TN-125 [UBN No. VPN2425WSOB02166]" are invited from interested bidders up to 03.01.2025 (04:00 PM). Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in)** of the state and **http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl** departmental website.
Superintending Engineer
Raj.Samwad/C/24/8628 RRVPN/TR-6497/2024 (Automation, N/M & SP)

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003, Telangana, India CIN:U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)
Dept-HOD, IT GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of:
1 **Tender Enquiry No. 005**/GATP/IT/50007076 dated 03/12/2024 "FOR SAP SERVICES." at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications for a period of One year
For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 03/12/2024 from 17:00 Hrs onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
GATP-04/24 76155/12/3709/2023/39786

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office:- PSEB H. O. Building, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Contact NO. 96461-18773
TENDER ENQUIRY No.: QQ- 1335/PO/C&S dt 02.12.2024
Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistorey Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites e-Tender for procurement of 4CX16 sq.mm-860KM LT XLPE insulated, PVC sheathed, Aluminum Conductor, unarmoured cable, ISI marked as per tender specification no. QQ-1335/PO/C&S dated 02.12.2024. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 02.12.2024 (5:00PM) onwards.
NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
C-905/24 76155/12/3707/2023/39775

उदयपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, राजस्थान
No. :- F-2(01)Acct/Contract/2024-25/180 - 182 Date : 29/11/2024
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या : 51/2024-25
उदयपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, उदयपुर द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यो मय डिफेक्ट लाईबिलिटी अवधि के लिये जो कि निविदा प्रपत्र में अंकित है के लिये उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदको से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई—टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :—

निविदा कार्यो की कुल लागत	:	रूपये 307.63 लाख (09 कार्य)
ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड / अपलोड करने की अवधि	:	30.11.2024 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 10.12.2024 को सांयः 6.00 बजे तक
Online EMD, Tender Fee & Processing Fee जमा कराने की तिथी	:	30.11.2024 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 10.12.2024 को सांयः 6.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तिथी	:	11.12.2024 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे

विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट **urban.rajasthan.gov.in/uitudaipur, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** व **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है।
UBN No. : ITU2425WSOB00375 To ITU2425WSOB00383
राज.संवाद/सी/24/8572 अधिशाषी अभियन्ता - चतुर्थ उदयपुर विकास प्राधिकरण

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत बून्दी
क्रमांकः केशियर/ डी-2262 दिनांकः 25.11.2024
निविदा सूचना संख्या 05/2024-25
NIB code : PWD2425A2885
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से **वर्षा से क्षतिग्रस्त कार्यों की स्थाई मरम्मत कार्यों** के लिये उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त पात्र श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष से पांच वर्ष की गारण्टी अवधि सहित निम्न कार्यों की निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्युरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट "www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in", http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in **तथा** http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। **इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट** http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक है। निविदा अपलोड करने की तारीख **05.12.2024 (गुरूवार) से 24.12.2024 (मंगलवार)** को सायं 6.00 बजे तक।
UBN is PWD2425WSOB10572
(इन्द्रजीत सिंह मीणा)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. वृत बून्दी
DIPR/C/11887/2024

TBILISI

Georgia PM accuses political rivals of backing violence at protests

REUTERS

Georgia Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze threatened to punish his political opponents, accusing them of being behind violence at mass protests, as Tbilisi's top court rejected a key lawsuit to annul the result of a contested October vote. He also suggested he would take retribution on public servants if they take part in protests. AFP

BEIJING

China's Xi vows to support Nepal's infrastructure development bids

GETTY IMAGES

President Xi Jinping told Nepali Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli that China will offer more support to develop Nepal's infrastructure. China was ready to "deepen cooperation with Nepal, build the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and enhance connectivity in areas such as ports, power grids and telecommunications," Mr. Xi said. AFP

BANGKOK

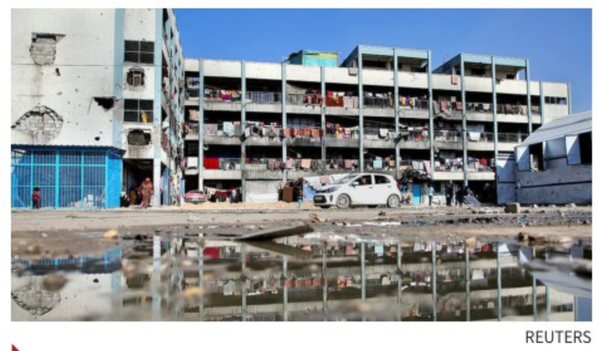
China bans exports of gallium, germanium, antimony to the U.S.

REUTERS

China announced on Tuesday that it is banning exports to the U.S. of gallium, germanium, antimony and other key high-tech materials with potential military applications. Beijing announced the move after the Washington expanded its list of Chinese companies subject to export controls on computer chip-making equipment. AFP

CAIRO

Hamas, Fatah to create a joint committee to run post-war Gaza



REUTERS

Hamas and Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas's Fatah party have agreed to create a committee to jointly run post-war Gaza. The committee would be composed of 10 to 15 non-partisan figures with authority on matters related to the economy, education, health, humanitarian aid and reconstruction. AFP

NATO chief avoids talk of Ukraine's membership

Associated Press
BRUSSELS

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte on Tuesday sidestepped questions about Ukraine's possible membership of the military alliance, saying that the priority now must be to strengthen the country's hand in any future peace talks with Russia by sending it more weapons.

"The front is not moving eastwards. It is slowly moving westwards," Mr. Rutte said. "So we have to make sure Ukraine gets into a position of strength, and then it should be for the Ukrainian government to decide on the next steps, in terms of opening peace talks and how to conduct them."

S. Korea President declares martial law, parliament votes against move

Yoon Suk Yeol cites 'threats' posed by the North; constitution mandates that martial law be lifted when a majority in parliament demands it; Army chief takes charge as martial law commander, issues a decree banning 'all political activities'

Agence France-Presse
SEOUL

South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol on Tuesday declared martial law, accusing the opposition of being "anti-state forces" and saying he was acting to protect the country from "threats" posed by the North.

Lawmakers quickly voted to oppose the shock declaration but the military backed Mr. Yoon, setting up a stand-off with no clear way forward.

The National Assembly was sealed late on Tuesday night and helicopters were seen landing on the roof.

Limited rights: The police stand guard in front of the National Assembly in Seoul on Tuesday after martial law was declared. AFP

Troops entered the building for a short time, while hundreds of protesters gathered outside parliament chanting "Arrest Yoon Suk Yeol" and faced off with security forces guarding parliament.

Some 190 MPs managed to get in to the Assembly in the early hours of Wednesday, where they unanimously voted in favour of a motion to block the martial law declaration and call for its lifting.

Under the constitution, martial law must be lifted when a majority in parliament demands it.

Mr. Yoon gave a range of reasons to justify his announcement – South Korea's first declaration of martial law in more than 40 years. "To safeguard a liberal South Korea from the threats posed by North Korea's communist forces and to eliminate anti-state elements plundering people's freedom and happiness, I hereby declare emergency martial law," Mr. Yoon said.

Army chief General Park An-su took charge as martial law commander and immediately issued a decree banning "all political activities".

Democratic South Korea is a major ally for the United States in Asia, and the U.S. State Department said it had "grave concern" about the situation.

China, a key ally of North Korea, urged its nationals in the South to stay calm and exercise caution, while Britain said it was "closely monitoring developments".

U.K. does not have to choose between U.S. and Europe: Starmer

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Keir Starmer

U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer strongly rejected the idea that Britain had to choose between the U.S. and its allies in Europe.

Mr. Starmer is one of several European leaders navigating Mr. Trump's imminent return to power. Mr. Trump is expected to meet several Heads of State on Saturday when he visits Paris for the re-opening of the Notre Dame Cathedral. As U.S. President, Mr. Trump had a testy relationship with the EU, over trade, defence expenditure and positions on Russia and Ukraine

"That somehow we are with either America or Europe is plain wrong. I reject it utterly," Mr. Starmer said during a foreign policy speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet in London on Monday evening. "The national interest demands that we work with both," he added.

Mr. Starmer said the U.K. would "never turn away" from its relationship with the U.S., calling the bilateral relationship the "cornerstone" of the U.K.'s security and prosperity for over a century.

'Hard-headed realism'

The Prime Minister said the two countries being close was not based on sentimentality but "hard-headed realism", as he highlighted areas of cooperation that were important in current times: tech, AI, security and military cooperation.

At a dinner at the Trump Tower in Manhattan on September 26, Mr. Starmer had told Mr. Trump, then a presidential candidate, that his government "would invest more deeply than ever" in the U.K.-U.S. relationship.

"And we will rebuild our ties with Europe too," Mr. Starmer said during his speech on Monday night.

New envoy to U.K.

Mr. Trump announced the appointment of billionaire Warren Stephens for the post of U.S. Ambassador to the U.K. Mr. Stephens, the CEO of financial services company Stephens Inc., was initially a donor to Mr. Trump's Republican rivals in the latest election cycle before donating to the Trump campaign.

Mr. Stephens had also donated in support of Mr. Trump's campaign in 2019 and 2020. The Consumer Finance Protection Bureau had taken action against Integrity Advance, a payday loan company in which Mr. Stephens had a 40% stake.

"Warren has always dreamed of serving the U.S. full time. I am thrilled that he will now have that opportunity as the top Diplomat, representing the U.S.A. to one of America's most cherished and beloved Allies," Mr. Trump said on Truth Social, his social media platform.

Iran President shows apprehensions about a planned hijab law

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has expressed doubts about new legislation imposing tougher penalties on women who flout mandatory hijab regulations.

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, women in Iran have been required to cover their hair in public.

However, increasing numbers are appearing without hijabs, especially since protests erupted following Mahsa Amini's death in custody in September 2022.

She had been arrested for allegedly violating the dress code.

Parliament has approved the new "hijab and chastity" law, but it requires the President's signature on December 13 to take effect.

"As the person responsible for promulgating this law, I have many reservations about it," Mr. Pezeshkian told state television late Monday.

"We risk ruining a lot of things in society because of this law," the Iranian President said, adding that leaders must avoid actions that could alienate the public.

Militants capture four Syrian towns, Army reclaims some lost territory

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Syrian Islamist militants captured four new towns early on Tuesday, bringing them closer to the central city of Hama, opposition activists said, while government forces retook some territory they lost last week.

The capture of the towns is the latest in the push by insurgents led by the salafi jihadi Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, as well as Turkiye-backed opposition fighters. Insurgents now are about 10 km from Hama, the country's fourth largest city.

Finders keepers: A militant sitting atop a tank abandoned by the Syrian Army on the highway to Damascus on Tuesday. AFP

The latest push is part of a wide offensive by forces opposed to Syrian President Bashar Assad that over the past days has captured large parts of the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest, as well as towns and villages in southern parts of the northwestern Idlib province.

The insurgents' military operations administration said gunmen killed 50 government forces as they captured the central towns of Halfaya, Taybat al-Imam, Maardis and Soran.

The pro-government *Dama Post* media outlet reported intense clashes in and around the towns.

State media reported intense airstrikes by Syrian and Russian air forces in the area.

Both the Observatory and pro-government media outlets reported that Syrian government forces on Tuesday captured the village of Khanaser, days after losing it. Khanaser sits on one of the roads that lead to Aleppo.

Sport

Manchanda, the 'Old Fox' of Indian squash, passes away

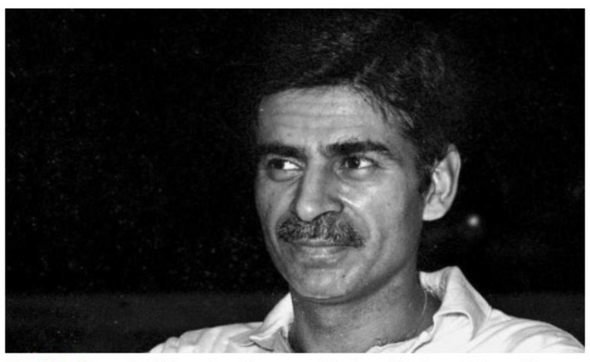
Sports Bureau

Brig Raj Manchanda, the 'Old Fox' of Indian squash, passed away in Delhi on Sunday. He was 80. Manchanda was visiting Delhi to attend a wedding and was cremated with Military Honours at Brar Square.

A six-time National champion and an Arjuna Awardee, Manchanda was acknowledged for his untiring resilience and exceptional ability to outlast opponents.

He took to coaching after his retirement. Among his international feats was a fourth place at the 1984 Asian Championships in Jordan.

"He was a dream father, more of a friend. Never hurt anyone and loved to share his experience with young squash players," said his daughter, Shibani, who played squash at the National level with her younger brother, Anshul.



Terrible loss: Raj Manchanda was a six-time National champion and an Arjuna Awardee. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

A popular figure for his talent for singing and composing, Manchanda was a kind man.

"As a teenager, he once took his collection of trophies and requested the sports shop owner to sell them and use the money to help squash players," recalled Shibani.

Ebenyo, Kebede headline elite field

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Defending champions Daniel Ebenyo of Kenya and Sutume Kebede of Ethiopia will be among the top international athletes who will take part in the Tata Steel World 25K Kolkata run, the first World Athletics Gold Label race over the distance, here on December 15. Both Ebenyo and Sutume hold the current event records of 1:11:13 and 1:18:47 for men and women races respectively.

The women's line-up includes Bahrain's Desi Jisa, the winner in 2022 and the second-place finisher in Doha (2023) and Seoul (2024) marathons.

Tamil Nadu teams storm into semifinals

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Tamil Nadu, powered by Aakash and Priyadarshan, overcame a strong challenge from Uttar Pradesh and won 66-55 in the boys' quarterfinals of the National youth basketball championships at the Sabuj Sathi Indoor Stadium, Howrah, on Tuesday. TN will face defending champion Rajasthan, a 76-67 winner over Punjab. Reigning champ TN girls also made it to the last-four, getting past Gujarat 81-55 and setting up a clash with Kerala. The Kerala outfit eased past Rajasthan 74-38 in another last-eight contest.

The results (quarterfinals):
Boys: Tamil Nadu 66 (Aakash 20, Priyadarshan 19, Vishal 16) bt Uttar Pradesh 55 (Ayush Kumar 16, Abhyupang Mishra 10).
Karnataka 80 (Harshan Yatish 24, Adithva Shenoi 19, Vaibhav Gowda 18) bt Telangana 61 (Dhruv Bopanna 17, Saharsh Maheswar 16, Reyhan Ellore 12).
Rajasthan 76 (Mohammed Raza Khan 27, Bupendra Singh Rathore 20, Piyush Choudhary 14) bt Punjab 67 (Suhaan Mash 17, Manjot Singh 15, Fatehjeet Singh 15, Ajitinder Singh 12).
Girls: Kerala 74 (Arthika 21, Vaigha 19, Diya Biju 14) bt Rajasthan 38 (Jaya Dadich 13).
Maharashtra 81 (Aarya Phatangare 28, Reva Kulkarni 27, Siya Bhonsle 11) bt Punjab 37 (Gagandeep Kaur 11).
Tamil Nadu 81 (Joshna 18, Jefrin 17, A. Angelina Arun 16, Sumitra Devi 16) bt Gujarat 55 (Vidhiben Baria 16, Akansha Bhardwaj 14, Priyanshi Chundawat 10).
Karnataka 67 (Deepika P.P. 21, Tarusree Tarun 20, Aditi Subramanian 14) bt Telangana 47 (Netra Birudavolu 14, Srihitha Penumatsa 10, Viha Reddy Jonnalagdda 10).

QUICK SINGLES

Bangladesh gets a sizeable lead over WI

KINGSTON: Bangladesh turned an 18-run first-innings lead against the West Indies into a competitive 211-run advantage on day three of the second Test at Sabina Park on Monday.

Bangladesh defended its first-innings 164 by bowling out the host for 146 just after lunch as pacer Nahid Rana took his maiden Test five-wicket haul. As the pitch started to ease up in the sun, Bangladesh batted with unexpected boldness, especially Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Shadman Islam, and grabbed a handy lead at 193 for five when bad light ended play.

The scores: Bangladesh 164 in 71.5 overs & 193/5 in 41.4 overs (Shadman 46, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 42) vs West Indies 146 in 65 overs (Keacy Carty 40, Nahid Rana 5/61).

Nahid Rana. FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Big win for Pakistan

BULAWAYO: Left-arm wrist spinner Sufiyan Muqeem starred with a five-wicket haul as Zimbabwe was routed for its lowest T20 total of 57 and Pakistan romped to a series-clinching 10-wicket win at Queens Sports Club on Tuesday.

The scores: Zimbabwe 57 in 12.4 overs (Sufiyan 5/3) lost to Pakistan 61/0 in 5.3 overs.
PoM: Sufiyan.

SAFE ZONE

A draw that could make Ding feel more confident going forward

FIDE

Ding Liren could be feeling more confident after his great escape against D. Gukesh in the seventh game of the World chess championship. “I thought it was a total failure during the game because I thought I was getting outplayed,” he said after playing out a 72-move draw.

ROVING EYE

Gambhir keeps a tab as players sweat it out at training session

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Gautam Gambhir was a watchful presence at the Adelaide Oval on Tuesday. The Indian coach, who had returned home for personal reasons after the first Test at Perth, arrived in the early hours of the day. He kept an eye on his wards as Rohit Sharma’s men had their first training session in the lead-up to the second Test.

COLLECTOR’S DELIGHT

Bradman’s ‘baggy green’ cap goes for $250,000 at auction

AFP

A baggy green Test cap worn by Australian great Don Bradman sold for $250,000 at auction on Tuesday as collectors vied to own a rare piece of cricketing history. The cap showed signs of "insect damage.” Auction house Bonhams said Bradman wore the cap during India's 1947-48 tour of Australia, his last Test series at home.

THRILLS & SPILLS

Giants and Bulls in an exciting tie; U Mumba beats Puneri Paltan

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gujarat Giants and Bengaluru Bulls played out an exciting 34-34 tie on Tuesday to kick off the Pune leg of PKL Season 11. For the Bulls, Nitin Rawal scored seven points while Pardeep Narwal and Sushil got six each. U Mumba defeated Puneri Paltan 43-29 in the day’s other match.

Ding pulls off a Houdini act against Gukesh in an absorbing Game 7

Defending champion keeps his cool under pressure to hold on for a draw in 72 moves; Indian GM lets winning position slip away

FIDE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SINGAPORE 2024

P. K. Ajith Kumar
SINGAPORE

Escape to draw: A determined Ding, playing black, managed to ward off Gukesh and time pressure to share the honours. FIDE

Ding Liren hasn’t had an ice cream here, despite all the memes back home from China.

He may have been tempted to treat himself to 'bing qi lin' -- Chinese for ice cream, and thus the play on his name, ‘Ding Chillin’ -- on Tuesday night. He did everything to earn such a sweet delicacy.

His position had been delicate at several points of the game, and was staring at defeat in Game 7 of the World chess championship. But, then, Ding is World champion for a reason.

He had showcased tremendous fighting spirit in the World title match against Ian Nepomniachtchi last year. His form may have deserted him since, and he may be ranked only 22nd in the world now, while Gukesh is fifth.

Sport, of course, is not just about numbers.

It is also much about resilience, a quality Ding showed in abundance. Yes, he could draw because of some inaccurate moves from Gukesh. But the defending champion had to find the correct moves – and he had to fight against the clock, too -- if he wanted to escape with a draw.

Houdini would have approved.

Time trouble

Gukesh opened by taking his knight to the ‘f3’ square, to which Ding responded by pushing the pawn in front of his queen by two squares.

On the seventh move, the challenger sprang a surprise, bringing his rook to ‘e1’, and that got Ding to think for some 28 minutes.

That was only the beginning of his trouble with the clock.

There was a time when he had to make 15 moves in as many minutes. And he had just seconds to make his last move in the first time control. Gukesh did well to get a clearly better position, which he turned into a potentially winning one. But, he erred at some crucial junctures, allowing Ding to claw his way back.

Still better, but...

Gukesh still was better when the game reached a rook-and-bishop against rook-and-knight ending.

But on the 46th move, he made a costly mistake, with his bishop, when he should have played with his king. There was, however, only one move that could have salvaged half-a-point for Ding, an ‘f’ pawn push. And he found it.

The game was eventually drawn in 72 moves, with just Ding’s king and Gukesh’s king and bishop remaining on the board.

The longest game of the match so far lasted five-and-a-half hours.

Ding truly was chilling on this night.

GAME 7: MOVES

1. Nf3 d5 2. g3 g6 3. d4 Bg7 4. c4 c6 5. Bg2 Nf6 6. 0–0 0–0 7. Re1 dxc4 8. e4 Bg4 9. Nbd2 c5 10. d5 e6 11. h3 Bxf3 12. Bxf3 exd5 13. exd5 Nbd7 14. Nxc4 b5 15. Na3 Qb6 16. Bf4 Rfe8 17. Qd2 Rad8 18. Nc2 Nf8 19. b4 c4 20. Be3 Qa6 21. Bd4 Rxe1+ 22. Rxe1 Qxa2 23. Ra1 Qb3 24. Ra3 Qb1+ 25. Kg2 Rd7 26. Ra5 Qb3 27. Ra3 Qb1 28. Ra5 Qb3 29. Rxb5 Qd3 30. Qf4 Qxc2 31. Bxf6 Qf5 32. Qxf5 gxf5 33. Bxg7 Kxg7 34. Rc5 Ng6 35. Rxc4 Ne5 36. Rd4 Nc6 37. Rf4 Ne7 38. b5 Kf6 39. Rd4 h6 40. Kf1 Ke5 41. Rh4 Nxd5 42. Rxh6 Nc3 43. Rc6 Ne4 44. Ke1 f6 45. h4 Rd3 46. Bd1 f4

47. gxf4+ Kxf4 48. Bc2 Rd5 49. Rc4 f5 50. Rb4 Kf3 51. Bd1+ Kg2 52. Rb3 Re5 53. f4 Re7 54. Re3 Rh7 55. h5 Nf6 56. Re5 Nxh5 57. Rxf5 Ng3 58. Rf8 Rb7 59. Ba4 Kf3 60. f5 Kf4 61. f6 Ne4 62. Bc2 Nd6 63. Rd8 Ke5 64. Bb3 Nf7 65. Rd5+ Kxf6 66. Kd2 Rb6 67 .Bc4 Rd6 68. Kc3 Rxd5 69. Bxd5 Nd6 70. Kb4 Nxb5 71. Kxb5 a6+ 72. Kxa6

Game drawn.

Aussie Davis Cup great Fraser passes away

Legend: Neale Fraser, training in Madras in February 1979, helped Australia win four consecutive Davis Cup titles. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Associated Press
MELBOURNE

Neale Fraser, who won three Grand Slam singles titles and guided Australia to four Davis Cup titles during a 24-year career as team captain, has died at 91.

Tennis Australia released a statement on Tuesday saying the sport “has lost one of its giants.” Fraser beat Australian tennis great Rod Laver to win Wimbledon in 1960, in between sweeps at the U.S. Open where he won the singles, men’s doubles and mixed titles in 1959 and ‘60.

He won 11 Major men’s doubles titles, including at least two at each of the four Grand Slam tournaments.

Laver, the only man to twice win all four singles Majors in a calendar year, posted a tribute to his “dear mate and fellow lefty” on X.

Fraser “was a true gem in a golden era of Australian tennis legends – an incredible World No. 1, a Grand Slam champion, and a Davis Cup icon,” Laver posted. “Neale bested me in 2 major finals, pushing me to become a better player. I’ll miss you dearly, buddy.”

Fraser helped Australia win four consecutive Davis Cup titles as a player and rejected lucrative offers to turn professional in a quest to succeed Harry Hopman as the national team captain. “That ambition was fulfilled in 1970 and he remained in the position until 1993, helming 24 Davis Cup campaigns during which Australia won the title four times,” Tennis Australia said.

Not sharp enough for a comeback: Woods

Big click: Woods and HeroMoto Corp chairman Munjal strike a pose ahead of the Hero World Challenge. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

V.V. Ramanan
NASSAU (BAHAMAS)

There was some news to cheer about – and some not – ahead of the Hero World Challenge golf tournament set to tee off at the picturesque Albany Golf Course in the Bahamian capital on Thursday.

Addressing the media here on Tuesday, Pawan Munjal, chairman of Hero MotoCorp, announced that his company, which has been associated with the invitational event for 10 years, will continue as the title sponsor.

In addition, the legendary Tiger Woods, who hosts the tournament through the TGR Live foundation, will remain Hero’s global corporate partner until 2030.

Woods, while thanking Hero for the continued support, said he was disappointed at not making one of his comebacks at the tournament as he was not physically ready to compete at the highest level.

“Given the number of times I have come back here, I was ready to start competing and playing again. Unfortunately, not this time.

“I still need to keep training to give myself the best chance going into next year and the events ahead,” said the 15-time Major champion.

“I’m still not there. These are 20 of the best players in the world and I’m not sharp enough to compete against them at this level. So when I’m ready to compete and play at this level, I will,” said Woods, who has won this event five times.

(The writer is in Nassau at the invitation of Hero MotoCorp).

Team India gets down to business at the nets for Adelaide challenge

INDIA IN AUS

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
ADELAIDE

Next assignment: After the Perth win, the Indians will be brimming with confidence. FILE PHOTO: ANI

In cricket, Indian players are the rock stars. A routine pre-game training session at the Adelaide Oval here on Tuesday, acquired a festival air as nearly 3,000 fans thronged the venue, lending their full-throated acoustics as an accompaniment to the thwack of the pink ball thudding into an eager bat. As Sania Mirza once said about Indian fandom, truly ‘we are so many of us!’

Camera-phones got busy, photos taken, calls made, social media was spammed and cries of ‘Kohli’ and ‘Rohit’ rent the air. Seemingly immune to this external noise, the cricketers got down to the business of sweating it out while the venue’s guards were perplexed at all this attention. There was a scramble for space around the nets before a tiny area was earmarked for the media.

The coffee shop quickly ran out of food and beverages, while snatches of Hindi, Punjabi, Bengali, Tamil and Kannada were heard in the background. Be it Aaron Finch in 2019 or Pat Cummins now, all Australian captains have spoken about how they are all used to this overwhelming Indian presence across the globe. It was the turn of the Adelaide Oval to reiterate this truth.

Initially the fans were stumped as Rohit and Rishabh Pant turned in an hour early and sought their quiet time. All it needed was for a few to spot them and then the rush began. One youngster moved to the side of the net and said: “Hello Rohit.” The skipper politely told the intrusive follower to move further away and watch. The batters then got into their groove, and swapped their sessions against throwdowns and regular bowlers.

Rohit asked his friend and assistant coach Abhishek Nayar about his impressions. The latter spoke about some changes spotted in the former’s initial trigger movement. Rohit clarified that he is aware and then spoke about countering the angle of left-arm speedsters, obviously a veiled reference to Mitchell Starc. The sessions continued and Pant was astounded that Rohit could tackle the light and shadow variance on his pitch as the sun descended.

As word spread, more turned up through the gates past the River Torrens. Meanwhile, the full squad appeared and indulged in a spot of kick-volleyball, a sport in which only legs are employed and some rare headers are dished out. There was laughter and some friendly arguments. Later it was all about fielding drills, and every catch taken evoked the applause befitting a goal scored in a football World Cup’s summit clash.

Soon, it was again time for nets with Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.L. Rahul, Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill, Rohit, Pant and Washington Sundar being the first set of batters at work. Jasprit Bumrah and his pack, R. Ashwin and fellow spinners, were all in operation as the pink ball was dealt with under the sun and floodlights. These training programmes will surely get more intense as India gears up for the day-and-night second Test here from Friday.

We will find ways to counter Bumrah: Carey

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
ADELAIDE

Carey. AP

The Jasprit Bumrah threat, the alleged batter-bowler divide in the Australian camp and the number 36, seem to be the general themes during press conferences in the lead-up to the second Test here from Friday. And it was the turn of Alex Carey to square up and answer these queries when he met the media at the Adelaide Oval on Tuesday.

The Australian, all soft words and a shy grin, handled the inquisition with the same ease with which he collects the ball within his wicket-keeping gloves. As for Bumrah, Carey replied: “He is a fantastic bowler and our batters are world class as well and will find ways to come up with solutions. I have had a look at him now, so hopefully we can combat that first and second spell, get him bowling a bit deeper in the innings with an older ball. We saw Travis (Head) sort of counter punch (at Perth).”

Ever since Josh Hazlewood casually spoke about bowlers looking ahead towards the second Test while the first Test was in the balance at Perth, a rumour about a split between batters and seamers has done the rounds. It was Carey’s turn to deny these whispers: “If you ask the batters, we all want to perform better. As cricketers you go there to score a 100 and if you don’t do that, you are at times disappointed. But we are a very united group.”

Reminded about bundling out India for 36 at this same venue in 2020, Carey adopted a guarded tone: “They were obviously amazing days in cricketing history. But no, we don’t go out there expecting to do that again. We have a plan and will try to execute that, and whatever happens, happens. But I wasn’t here for that Test match. I tried to get in, but I missed it. And it happened too quickly. But yeah, we are excited and we do take a lot of confidence out of our record with pink ball cricket.”

Baroda gets the better of Karnataka

Abhinav's knock, Shreyas' hat-trick go in vain for the latter as it loses by four wickets in a crucial Mushtaq Ali Trophy contest

Vivek Krishnan
INDORE

Disappointment was writ large on the faces of Tamil Nadu's players at the Holkar Stadium on Tuesday after suffering a fourth straight defeat in Group B of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

Saurashtra, on the other hand, was brimming with joy. Justifiably so as a 58-run victory over Tamil Nadu takes the Jaydev Unadkat-led side to 20 points after six rounds.

With Baroda and Gujarat also winning their matches, against Karnataka and Uttarakhand respectively, however, there is a three-way battle for qualification to the knockouts that will only be settled after the final round.

Batting first, Karnataka scored 169 for eight on the back of Abhinav Manohar's unbeaten 56. Baroda, which has nailed most of its chases during this campaign, crossed the finish line in the 19th over. Shashwat Rawat (63) and Bhanu Pania (42) were the architects of the chase.

Golden ducks

The Pandya brothers – Hardik and Krunal – were dismissed for golden ducks as leggie Shreyas Gopal (four for 19) performed a hat-trick.

He had removed Rawat to begin the sequence.

In the other match, Saurashtra racked up 235 for five on the back of explosive half-centuries by Harvik Desai, Ruchit Ahir and Sammar Gajjar. Barring M. Boopathi Vaishna Kumar's knock of 65, Tamil Nadu's reply of 177 for nine was tepid.

Desai and Prerak Mankad made their ambitions clear very early by helping Saurashtra race to 75 for one at the end of the PowerPlay. They were particularly severe on left-arm spinner R. Sai Kishore, taking 24 runs off his opening over.

If Tamil Nadu had to get past the target, both N. Jagadeesan and Shahrukh ideally had to come good. Jagadeesan departed for 24 when his cut off left-arm spinner Dharmendrasinh Jadeja found Gajjar at point. Shahrukh was dismissed for a second-ball duck.

A ban, a possible court case, and a peep into the future

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Jay Shah takes office as chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), at a critical juncture. There is the re-entry of cricket in the 2028 Olympics, for one. The Champions Trophy imbroglio seems to have been sorted out, but there is a more important issue bubbling with ramifications for the sport itself.

With India's decision not to travel to Pakistan next year for political reasons, the tournament is now scheduled to be played in Dubai too (for India matches). As a face-saving expedient, Pakistan have told the ICC that the hybrid format should be followed if Pakistan don't come to India for the 2026 T20 World Cup, 2029 Champions Trophy or the 2031 ODI World Cup all scheduled in this country. That is unlikely to happen because the power dynamic is in India's favour.

Shah, son of India's Home Minister, who until last week had mainly India's interests at heart will have to recalibrate his outlook and work for the game at large. Of the four Indian chairmen before him, only Shashank Manohar – "an Indian administrator with a conscience," Wisden called him – thought beyond India and addressed the interests of the game which was then being hijacked by the 'Big Three', India, Australia and England.

The separation between India and the world is notional because where cricket is concerned, India are the world.

They have the money, the power and the energy to bend the sport to their will. Like England did when they had those things. Some three decades ago, the official veto power England and Australia enjoyed in the ICC was removed. Now India have the veto, even if unofficially.

But does a country have the power of insistence or endorsement that insists an individual can play only in certain countries or formats? Can players sue their boards for 'restraint of trade'? That argument allowed players in the 70s to win a court case after choosing Kerry Packer's series in Australia over Test cricket. We will know soon enough.

Last year 74 England players appeared in franchise tournaments around the world, more than from any other country. Now the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has banned players from appearing in leagues that clash with their domestic season (the IPL excepted).

The Professional Cricketers Association might take the ECB to court over this, thus firing a salvo that will influence where the game is headed.

The 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) from their home boards is the players' visa to leagues, from Pakistan and South Africa to Canada and the West Indies. England have no objection to their players taking part in the IPL, the richest and the most sought-after tournament ever since it was inaugurated in 2008. The IPL has made millionaires of more cricketers from more countries than any other.

Understanding that boards might need to be encouraged to provide the NOCs, the IPL began by paying ten percent of players' salaries to their country's national boards.

The ECB's action might see a further diminishing of red-ball cricket if players choose a good deal in the present to the possibility of being remembered as a hero of the long game in the future. It might - an argument that has been made in these columns before - lead to a split in the administration of the game too, with T20 and Test cricket being run by separate bodies. It happened with rugby when it was split into union and league that became two distinct games.

As players turn their backs on the First Class game for the higher returns and apparently greater security that the franchises promise, it seems natural to have two different governing bodies too. If Test cricket becomes a sport played by those not good enough for the franchises, it might not matter so much; this is where legacy comes in.

T20, by its nature is a forgettable sport; to be remembered in a couple of decades, a player must make his mark in Test cricket. Or is that overly romantic?

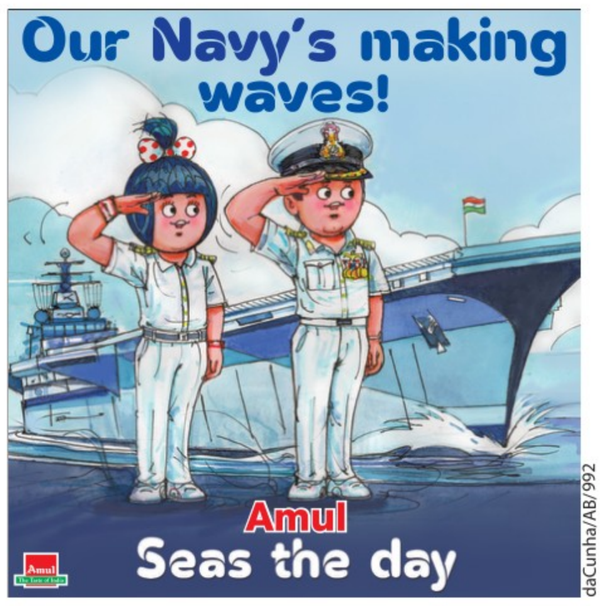
There are some 20 domestic leagues around the world. Cricket is in the position of the frog in gently heating water that gets cooked because it didn't react early enough. Something has to give. Jay Shah has his hands full.

FCBU and MEG share eight goals

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

FC Bengaluru United was held to a 4-4 draw by MEG in the BDFA Super Division football league.

The results: FC Bengaluru United 4 (Aaryan Amla 21, A. Tyagi 28, 35, Rakesh Singh 70) drew with MEG 4 (Ayush 37, Sarath Narayana 55, 58, Abinand 61); Sporting Club Bengaluru 4 (Tharun Kumar 12, Surya Rostogi 20, Arjun Gouda 32, Yokshim Awungshi 89) bt Bangalore Independents FC 0.



TOP MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY SCORES - SIXTH ROUND

Group-A: Rajkot: Bihar 147/6 in 20 overs (Sakibul Gani 79) lost to Bengal 150/1 in 14 overs (Karan Lal 94 n.o.); **Points: Bengal 4(20), Bihar 0(8).**
Madhya Pradesh 178/8 in 20 overs (Subhranshu Senapati 42, Harsh Gawli 51,Chama Milind 3/33, Ajay Dev Goud 3/20) bt Hyderabad 171/9 in 20 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 47, Tilak Varma 46, Kamal Tripathi 3/31); **MP 4(20), Hyderabad 0(8).**
Rajasthan 161/9 in 20 overs (Kartik 50, Baltej Singh 3/32) lost to Punjab 162/5 in 17.4 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 62); **Punjab 4(16), Rajasthan 0(20).**

Group-B: Indore: Uttarakhand 182/7 in 20 overs (R. Samarth 54, Kunal Chandela 43, Aditya Tare 54, Vishal Jayswal 4/27) lost to Gujarat 185/2 in 13.1 overs (Urvil Patel 115 n.o.); **Gujarat 4(20), Uttarakhand 0(8).**
Saurashtra 235/5 in 20 overs (Harvik Desai 55, Prerak Mankad 43, Ruchit Ahir 56, Sammar Gajjar 55 n.o., Gurjapneet Singh 3/53) bt Tamil Nadu 177/9 in 20 overs (Boopathi Kumar 65, Chirag Jani 3/38); **Saurashtra 4(20), TN 0(8).**
Karnataka 169/8 in 20 overs (R. Smaran 38, Abhinav Manohar 56 n.o.) lost to Baroda 172/6 in 18.5 overs (Shashwat Rawat 63, Bhanu Pania 42, Shreyas Gopal 4/19). **Baroda 4(20), Karnataka 0(12).**

Group-C: Mumbai: UP 157/6 in 20 overs (Shivam Mavi 45 n.o., M. Ashwin 3/24) lost to J & K 160/4 in 19.1 overs (Shubham Khajuria 85 n.o.); **J & K 4(12), UP 0(16).**
Delhi 154/8 in 20 overs (Priyansh Arya 38, Anuj Rawat 49) lost to Jharkhand 157/5 in 19 overs (Kumar Kushagra 55 n.o.); **Jharkhand 4(20), Delhi 0 (20).**

Group-D: Visakhapatnam: Odisha 120/7 in 9 overs (Swastik Samal 69, Sandeep Pattnaik 31) bt Assam 57 in 8.1 overs; **Odisha 4(6), Assam 0(12).**
Vizianagaram: Vidarbha 206/5 in 20 overs (Atharva Taide 34, Mandar Mahale 39, Shubham Dubey 52 n.o., Jitesh Sharma 38, Shashank Singh 3/41) bt Chhattisgarh 190 in 19.5 overs (Anuj Tiwary 98, Darshan Nalkande 3/42); **Vidarbha 4(18), Chhattisgarh 0(6).**

Group-E: Hyderabad: Kerala 87 in 18.1 overs (K.V. Sasikanth 3/23) lost to Andhra 88/4 in 13 overs (Srikar Bharat 56 n.o., Jalaj Saxena 3/13); **Andhra 4(20), Kerala 0(16).**
Mumbai 192/4 in 20 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 70, Shivam Dube 71 n.o.) bt Services 153 in 19.3 overs (Mohit Ahlawat 54, Shardul Thakur 4/25, Shams Mulani 3/40); **Mumbai 4(16), Services 0(8).**
Maharashtra 193/6 in 20 overs (Arshin Kulkarni 44, Ankit Bawane 51, Nikhil Naik 40) lost to Goa 194/6 in 19.3 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 66, Vikas Singh 31 n.o, Mukesh Choudhary 3/33); **Goa 4(4), Maharashtra 0(8).**

SCB hopes to bring back fanfare for side's first home game

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Sporting Club Bengaluru coach Alex Praveen recalled the heyday of I-League action in the city, when giants HAL and ITI attracted massive crowds.

"Many years ago, the entire city of Bengaluru would talk about I-League matches involving HAL and ITI. I have watched these matches too. That sort of hype has been missing. We want to bring back those glory days," Praveen said.

SCB will hope that the fanfare returns to the Bangalore Football Stadium for the side's first home I-League game when it faces Churchill Brothers FC Goa on Wednesday.

"We want our fans to support us," Praveen said, as SCB is set to become the first city-based club to feature in the I-League since 2016-17.